FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-191
Tuesday
3 October 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-191

CONTENTS

3 October 1995

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Expelled Palestinians Continues 1
  PA Asks Libya To Reconsider Decision *[Jericho VOP]* 1
  PNC Denounces Libya Over Expulsions *[AFP]* 1
  600 Palestinians Said Headed to Syria *[AFP]* 1
  Expulsions to Egypt, Tunisia Planned *[MENA]* 1
  Jordan, Egypt Asked To Admit Deportees *[Jerusalem International]* 2
  Iraqis Reportedly Replace Palestinians *[London MBC TV]* 2
  Al-Qadhdhafi To Give News Conference *[AFP]* 2
  Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Camp *[AFP]* 3
  Committee Pledges Support To Leader *[Tripoli TV]* 3
Arab League May Convene Over Libya Expulsions *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Sep]* 3
Tunisian Appointed League Assistant Secretary *[Tunis TV]* 4
'Exclusive' Arab Summit To Heal Postwar Rift *[AL-BILAD 4 Oct]* 4

Islamic Affairs

OIC Leader Praises Iran's Contribution to Peace *[Tehran Radio]* 4
Islamic, Western Contact Groups Meet on Bosnia *[IRNA]* 4
OIC Contact Group Meets on Jammu, Kashmir *[SPA]* 5
  Expresses 'Solidarity' With Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 5
Pakistan Denies Interference in Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 6
Islamic Call Conference Ends in Tripoli *[JANA]* 6
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Sep 7
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 19 Sep 10
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 19 Sep 14
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Sep 15

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Marzuq Group Threatens Americans in Territories *[AL-BILAD 4 Oct]* 18
PLO Reportedly Working To Free Abu-Marzuq *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Oct]* 19
Assassination Attempts on 'Arafat Reportedly Foiled *[MENA]* 19
Minister Sees Possible Delay in Implementing Accord *[Cairo International]* 20
PFLP-GC Statement on Retaliatory Operation *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 21
PA Official on Controversy Over Female Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Delay in Releasing Women Prisoners 'Serious' *[Jericho VOP]* 21

Arab-Israeli Talks

Mubarak Delivers Speech at Signing Ceremony *[Cairo TV]* 21
Paper on 'Secret' Syrian-Israeli Meetings in U.S. *[AL-BILAD 4 Oct]* 22
'Unofficial' Envoy on Syria 'Gestures' on MIA's *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Peres Meets With Ministers of Oman, Tunisia, Mali *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Oct]* 23

Israel, Arab States, Others Initial Tourism Agreement *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Oct]* 24

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Assassination of AL KHABAR Editor Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 25
FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 26 Sep]* 25

Egypt

Committee Explains Position on Taba Agreement *[MENA]* 28
Six Members of Muslim Brotherhood Arrested *[MENA]* 29
Reportage Continues on Trial of 49 MB Members 29
  'Dangerous' Documents Seized *[AL-AHRAM 21 Sep]* 29
  Second Session Held *[MENA]* 30
  'Unprecedented' Crowd at Trial *[AFP]* 31
Two Killed, 5 Wounded in al-Minya *[MENA]* 32
Al-Minya Military Commander, 'Terrorists' Seized *[MENA]* 32
Police Arrest 47 Islamists in al-Minya *[London MBC TV]* 32
Minister: 'Abd-Al-Rahman Verdict 'Expected' *[MENA]* 32
Prison Official Denies Prisoners' Torture *[AL-AHRAM 21 Sep]* 32
  Further on Prisoners *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 28 Sep]* 33
Qasim Disappearance Prompts Opposition Unity Call *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Oct]* 33
Action Group Denies Threats, Secretiveness *[AL-SHA'B 22 Sep]* 34
Minister Departs for IMF, World Bank Meeting *[MENA]* 34

Sudan

Opposition Figure on 'Abd-al-Rahman's Conviction *[MENA]* 35
Foreign Minister Notes 'Successful' China Visit *[Omdurman TV]* 35
President Visits Hanoi, Denounces Imperialism *[Omdurman TV]* 35
  Joint Economic, Technical Agreement Signed *[Omdurman Radio]* 36
Opposition Welcomes Egypt Hosting Conference *[AL-AHRAM 26 Sep]* 36
Opposition Group Claims Battlefield Successes *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* . 36
TV Signs Agreement To Broadcast on Arabsat *[Omdurman Radio]* 37

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Middle East Peace *[Jerusalem TV]* 37

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Trade Committee Adopts Recommendations *[SPA]* 39

Kuwait

Reported Iraqi Troop Movements Discussed *[Kuwait Radio]* 39

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah; Adviser Comments *[KUNA]* 40
Peace Agreement Discussed; Israel Criticized *[AL-YAWM 30 Sep]* 40
King Backs Peace Accord, Comments on Jobs *[SPA]* 41

IRAQ

Paper Reports, Discusses Secret 'Troop Movements' *[London THE SUNDAY TIMES 1 Oct]* 42

Stateless Arabs Group Voices Support for Saddam *[INA]* 42
'Aziz Comments on Peace Process, Disarmament *[Paris LE FIGARO 30 Sep]* 43
Editorial Views Sanctions, Role of Gulf Countries *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 1, 2 Jul]* 45

ISRAEL

Rabin Briefs Labor on Oslo B, 'Arafat Promise *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Oct]* 51
General Provides Details of Oslo B Agreement *[HA'ARETZ 3 Oct]* 51
Cabinet Discusses Palestinian Prisoner Release *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 52
Dovish Religious Party Favors Oslo B Agreement *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Oct]* 53
Netanyahu Criticizes Rabin Attack on U.S. Jewry *[HA'ARETZ 3 Oct]* 53
Netanyahu Comments on Golan 'Message' for al-Asad *[Jerusalem TV]* 53
Peres Addresses UN General Assembly on Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 54
New Mosad Director Seen Likely To Be 'Outsider' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Oct]* 54

JORDAN

Israeli Settlers Demonstrate, Cross Jordan River 55
    Demonstrate at Allenby Bridge *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
    Break Fence, Cross Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
    Settlers Storm Jordan Border *[Amman TV]* 55
    Settlers' Complaints, Demands Detailed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Oct]* 55
    Settlers Want Message Passed to King *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Oct]* 56
    Demonstration Ends; Leaders Arrested *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Three Held in Attack on Israeli Envoy's Residence *[AL-BILAD 4 Oct]* 57
Embassy Denies Reports on King's Visit to Israel *[Jerusalem International]* 57
Officials Visit Tel Aviv To Discuss Trade Agreement *[AL-MASHRIQ 1 Oct]* 57
Official on Decision Not To Attend Iraqi Elections *[AL-BILAD 4 Oct]* 57
Return of 'Mutual Trust' With Syria Ruled Out *[AL-BILAD 4 Oct]* 58

LEBANON

Radio Denounces 'Arafat's Remarks Against Shiites *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 60
Buwayz Reaffirms Position on Peace at UN *[Beirut Radio]* 60
Minister Fattush Remarks on Non-Lebanese Cited *[AL-SAFIR 12 Sep]* 61
Fatah Colonel Responds to Fattush Comments *[AL-NAHAR 29 Sep]* 61
    Fatah Colonel Prosecuted *[MENA]* 61
Hizballah Denounces Israeli 'Usurpation' of Land *[IRNA]* 61
Phalangist Party Rejects Tenure Extension *[Beirut Radio]* 62

SYRIA

Radio: Nation Not Governed by Time Factor *[SANA]* 63
Radio Views Nation's Participation in Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 63
Israel Said Adding Complications in South Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 64
Daily Says Peace Requires 'Removal of Occupation' *[Damascus Radio]* 64
Damascus, Beirut Shun Israeli Peace 'Gimmicks' *[Damascus Radio]* 65
Peace Plan, Israeli Position Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 66
Minister Calls For Economic Cooperation With Iran *[IRNA]* 67
Official Receives European Medical Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 67

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Spokesman Claims UN Envoy 'Secured' Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 68

India

Editorial Ties U.S. Vote on Pakistan to Enron *[HINDUSTAN 23 Sep]* 68

Maharashtra Government Said To Renegotiate Enron *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Mukherjee Views Claim for Security Council Seat *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Navy Reportedly To Get 'New Generation' of Frigates *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Political Crisis, Violence Continue in Gujarat *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Home Minister Chavan Said Harming Rao Government *[AJ 31 Aug]* 70

Iran

Velayati Confers With Foreign Officials in New York 71
    Meets European Troika Envoys *[IRNA]* 71
    Meets Indonesian, Turkmen, Bosnian Ministers *[IRNA]* 71
    Meets Turkish, German, Australian Ministers *[IRNA]* 71
    Meets Others, Departs *[IRNA]* 72
Velayati Addresses OIC Conference in New York *[IRNA]* 73
Citizens' Anger Over U.S. 'Plots' Seen Increasing *[IRNA]* 74
Nateq-Nuri Criticizes U.S. 'Expansionism' *[Tehran TV]* 74
Army Chief of Staff on Combating U.S. 'Threat' *[ETTELA'AT 24 Sep]* 74
Rafsanjani Calls For Proper Defensive Structure *[IRNA]* 75
'Unsuccessful' Outcome of Ciller-Yilmaz Talks Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 76
Minister Announces Deadline for Election Candidates *[Tehran TV]* 76
IRGC's Thar-Allah Opens New Headquarters *[Tehran Radio]* 76
'Some 50' Battalions Take Part in 'Zolfaqar' 77
    Tehran LEF Commander Comments *[IRNA]* 77
    Last Phase of Maneuvers Held *[IRNA]* 77
    Nateq-Nuri Addresses Participants *[IRNA]* 77
Daily on Question of Student Political Inactivity *[SALAM 22 Aug]* 77
'Painful Realities' for Workers, Industry Viewed *[Berlin NAMEH-YE MARDOM 4 Jul]* 79
Several Qods Store Merchants Reportedly Dismissed *[RESALAT 31 Jul]* 79
Article Says Only 60% of National Water Used *[RESALAT 25 Jul]* 80
Fluctuation of Currency, Gold Reported *[RESALAT 25 Jul]* 80

Pakistan

Minister: 'Solid Proof' of Indian Role in Karachi *[THE NATION 24 Sep]* 81
President Claims 'Definite' Karachi Improvement *[Islamabad TV]* 82
Sindh Government Sends Letter to UN on Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 82
Daily Carries Indian TV Interview With Bhutto *[THE NATION 24 Sep]* 82

Sri Lanka

President Calls For Accelerating Economic Growth *[Colombo International]* 89
    Further on President's Remarks *[DAILY NEWS 30 Sep]* 89
Foreign Minister Attends UN General Assembly *[DAILY NEWS 2 Oct]* 90
Reportage on Recent Government-LTTE Rebel Fighting 90
    Government Launches 'Thunder Strike' *[DAILY NEWS 3 Oct]* 90
    'Guerrillas' Launch Counter-Offensive *[AFP]* 91
    Spokesman Details Rebel Naval Attack *[AFP]* 91

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Expelled Palestinians Continues

PA Asks Libya To Reconsider Decision

JN3009112195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Minister Dr. Samir Ghawshah has stated that the National Authority will continue to hold contacts and exert efforts with all the Arab and international parties to settle the issue of the Palestinians expelled by Libya. He said that their tribulation increases every day.

Dr. Ghawshah told our radio that the Libyan expulsion and Israel's stand of not allowing them to enter the homeland have put our people between a rock and a hard place.

The labor minister called on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan authorities to settle this tribulation. Dr. Ghawshah said that President 'Arafat met with Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben 'Ali last Tuesday to solve this problem, and that the PLO Executive Committee had voiced its great anxiety over the Libyan decision and called on Libya to cancel its decision and settle the crisis.

PNC Denounces Libya Over Expulsions

NC0210195995 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 2 (AFP) — Members of the Palestinian parliament in exile denounced Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi on Monday [2 October] for expelling Palestinians, saying they had contributed to the North African country's development.

"We remind Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that it is the Palestinians who built his country," said the interim president of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Salim al-Za'nun, after 50 members of the council met in Amman.

"This action is stupid," al-Za'nun said, referring to the expulsions. He added that he planned to talk "urgently with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the Arab League to stop the expulsions and ask the PLO to address the United Nations Security Council."

Al-Qadhdhafi has ordered the expulsion of all 30,000 Palestinians in his country to show up what he says is the failure of the Israeli-PLO self-rule accords to create a viable Palestinian homeland.

More than 5,000 Palestinians have left Libya since the start of this month and the pace has picked up in recent days, with more than 300 trapped in the no-man's land along the Egyptian border.

Al-Qadhdhafi is "a very dangerous man for the Palestinian people and needs to be fought," said Nadir Tamimi, a representative of the Islamic Jihad.

Layla Khalid, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, denounced "the Arab regimes who expel Palestinians and those who refuse to welcome them."

An independent member of the council, Ibrahim Qubba'ah, called the Libyan Government "dictatorial" and said it should be "toppled."

The council, which has its headquarters in Amman and comprises 483 members, has not held a full meeting since 1991.

600 Palestinians Said Headed to Syria

NC0310045795 Paris AFP in English 2228 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Oct 2 (AFP) — Six hundred Palestinians expelled by Libya left the port of Tripoli aboard a boat headed for Syria Monday [2 October], the Egyptian Government newspaper AL-AHRAM said.

A Maltese-registered boat is carrying the Palestinians, said the paper in its Tuesday edition, but it did not indicate whether Syria had authorized their entry.

This would mark the first time that Palestinians residing in Libya have been expelled to Syria since Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi ordered all Palestinians out of the country in early September. [passage omitted]

Expulsions to Egypt, Tunisia Planned

NC0110173395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)— Palestinian sources have said that Libya intends to deport 10,000 Palestinians residing in that country to its borders with both Egypt and Tunisia.

The sources said in a statement today that some 5,000 Palestinians have been assembled in the city of Tobruk near the border with Egypt in preparation for their deportation to the border, where more than 300 Palestinians have been staying for two weeks.

Palestinian sources say Tunisia has offered to accept some deported Palestinians, but said it cannot take too many of them.

Jordan, Egypt Asked To Admit Deportees

JN0210192395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1620 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary of the Fatah Movement in the West Bank, by Yasir 'Atilah; place and date not given: from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Marwan al-Barguthi, secretary of the Fatah Movement in the West Bank: The Fatah Higher Organizational Committee met today to discuss and study al- Qadhdhafi's decision to expel the Palestinians from Libya. What have you decided?

[Al-Barghuthi] This emergency meeting by the Fatah Higher Organizational Committee was held against the backdrop of continued deportations, despite all the appeals by various parties in the Arab world, Palestinian institutions and organizations, and the Arab League to al-Qadhdhafi to stop these intolerable practices which we denounce and condemn. These are immoral practices against Palestinians, who should not be thrown into the Libyan desert and dumped on the border, where they have so far spent days without finding a way to return to the homeland. Therefore, we have addressed an urgent appeal to the brothers in the governments of sisterly Jordan and Egypt to receive these Palestinians, who have been unjustly and unjustifiably expelled. We have also called on the Government of Israel to show good intentions toward those Palestinians by making the courageous decision to allow them to return to live among their people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

['Atilah] What has prompted al-Qadhdhafi, you think, to make this decision?

[Al-Barghuthi] I really do not know. No answer or reason has been provided thus far for this unjustifiable and inconceivable decision. Moreover, the Palestinians there are holders of residence permits and have helped the Libyan people by building up Libya and its cities and educational, health, and other institutions. Therefore, it was a surprising decision to throw the children, women, and elderly into the Libyan desert. If it was inevitable to deport the Palestinians—the unfairness and incomprehensibility of such a decision notwithstanding—then the work and residence permits could have been terminated gradually over several years, and the Palestinians could have been given a chance to return home honorably and proudly. Therefore, this is an unjustifiable act. We call on our people to speak out. We call for an emergency meeting of the Arab League to stop these inappropriate practices. We also call on the sisterly Arab countries to receive these Palestinians— especially sisterly Egypt and Jordan, which have always adopted honorable stands in supporting our people. We hope that they will be received and not remain victims of the wild animals, snakes, and scorpions in the Libyan desert.

['Atilah] Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah secretary in the West Bank, thank you.

[Al-Barghuthi] Thank you.

Iraqis Reportedly Replace Palestinians

NC0210183395 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinians deported by Libya continue to flood into the buffer zone on the Libyan-Egyptian border. The Libyan authorities have erected some 120 tents to shelter them. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Libyan Embassy in Baghdad is issuing work contracts for Iraqi workers. Iraqis trying to take advantage [of the deportation of Palestinians] and to escape the economic hardship in their country have been flowing into the Libyan Embassy. Among the needed professions are teachers, doctors, and engineers. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi To Give News Conference

NC0310100695 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 3 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is to visit a camp for expelled Palestinians stranded in no-man's land between Libya and Egypt on Wednesday [4 October], a Libyan diplomat here said.

Al-Qadhdhafi is to give a press conference on the border, the diplomat told AFP Tuesday.

The Libyan leader has ordered the expulsion of all 30,000 Palestinians in his country to show up what he says is the failure of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords to create a viable Palestinian homeland.

According to the United Nations 5,000 Palestinians have already been thrown out of Libya and 160 families are stranded in no-man's land after Egypt refused them entry.

The pace of expulsions picked up in recent days with Libyan authorities expanding the border camp where stranded Palestinians are staying. Two field hospitals, a makeshift mosque, a school and an electrical generator have been set up.

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Camp

NC0310094995 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 3 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is to visit a camp for expelled Palestinians in no-man's land between Libya and Egypt on Wednesday [4 October], a Libyan diplomat here said.

Committee Pledges Support To Leader

LD0110224995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Committee for the Return to Palestine has condemned the agreement signed by the Fatah organization with the Israeli enemy and said that this agreement represented only those who signed it. In a message to the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi], the committee affirmed its commitment to the principle of the total liberation of the Palestinian Arab territories. It also announced its readiness to return to Palestine however long the journey might be and however hard the road could be.

In its message, the Supreme Committee for the Return to Palestine said: We are with you, you the guardian of pan-Arabism, the Arab unionist and pan-Arab revolutionary, for the return to Palestine, however long the journey is and however hard the road is. We are with you, we the Palestinian masses for a dignified, honorable and triumphant return because capitulation concerns only those who signed it and defeat will befall only the weak cowards. We are with you to expose their positions and their plans. We are with you now that we have understood the objective and became aware of the road to take. We are with you, you the unique Arab leader, and to you we offer our lives and children and it is a pledge we will never betray and these are principles we will never abandon.

O revolutionary leader: we are your loyal disciples and these are genuine words from believers who carry out (?orders) and who are loyal. We are determined to return to Palestine whatever the sacrifices because the homeland is worthy of our sacrifice and the great nation is worthy of our loyalty. To you Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the daring Arab revolutionary, we give you all our consideration and will sacrifice ourselves for you.

Arab League May Convene Over Libya Expulsions

MM2809142895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Egyptian and Israeli Fears Over Existence of Abu-Nidal Elements Among Those Deported From Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — Arab sources in Cairo expect the Palestinians' deportation from Libya to be raised at the talks to be held by President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, King Husayn, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat with President Husni Mubarak, who arrived in Washington yesterday on a two-day visit to attend the ceremony marking the signing today of the new Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

An Egyptian envoy is expected to go to Tripoli within days amid fears in Cairo and Israel that elements from the Abu-Nidal group might enter both countries. While a PLO official has told AL-HAYAH that "the issue of those deported from Libya is an Arab responsibility." He criticized the Arab countries' "hesitation in tackling the issue." He said: "We will not wait long before requesting the convening of an emergency Arab League Council meeting to discuss the issue of the Palestinian presence in all the Arab states in the light of the violation the Arab agreement regulating the presence of the Palestinians living in Arab states, which was endorsed in 1965."

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has prepared a report about tackling this issue, which Egypt has to deal with because of Libya's deportation of the Palestinians across the common border.

Among the alternatives considered by Egypt in the framework of both the positive and negative aspects of the situation is to allow the deportees to cross the border or to close the al-Sallum checkpoint, pending a political solution to the crisis.

A high-ranking Egyptian diplomat has stressed to AL-HAYAH that the Egyptian position is being studied carefully. He said: "Relations with our eastern neighbor (Israel) are heated because of the POW issue and relations with our southern neighbor (Sudan) are bad because of the Khartoum government's implication in the attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. We do not want our border with our western neighbor (Libya) to be a source of problems too." he pointed out that the deportation of 30,000 Palestinians to the border is causing political, legal, and security problems.

Sources from the regional office of the refugees commission have told AL-HAYAH that the Egyptian authorities have stressed that they will not set up camps on the Egyptian side of the border with Libya to receive the Palestinians.

As is known, the Egyptian authorities recently returned to the buffer zone on the border with Libya elements belonging to the Abu- Nidal (Sabri al-Banna) group. And they said that Israel had announced during the contacts conducted with the Palestinian National Authority and Egypt that it would examine the security file of every Palestinian before allowing them to enter the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Appointed League Assistant Secretary

LD2909104695 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At Carthage Palace this morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received [former labor minister] Noureddine Hached who expressed his gratitude to the president for nominating him for the post of assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, which was recently approved by the Arab League Council. [passage omitted]

'Exclusive' Arab Summit To Heal Postwar Rift

JN0210155395 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources have told AL-BILAD that four countries are holding intensive contacts among their embassies in preparation for an exclusive Arab summit in Riyadh in mid-October. The summit is expected to include His Majesty King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Kuwait's Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah, and King Fahd.

The sources stressed that the four leaders have given their principled approval, and that the summit will result in resolving the crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in view of Jordan's official apology to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for its past stance on the Gulf crisis.

The summit will also result in the restoration of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Leader Praises Iran's Contribution to Peace

LD2609221295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Report by unidentified correspondent via telephone from New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], today praised the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving regional and international problems.

The secretary general was speaking in an exclusive interview with us after meeting our country's foreign affairs minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

He emphasized the importance of the constructive role of Iran in solving regional and international problems, such as helping to resolve the Tajik problem by bringing the country's rival groups together. The OIC members want this trend to continue.

The OIC secretary general, moreover, gave a positive evaluation of the joint session of the Contact Groups of the Western countries and the OIC, which was held in Paris recently. He said: The Islamic states intend to play their constructive role in ensuring that the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina regain their lost rights.

On the sidelines of the 50th UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also met and conferred with the foreign ministers of Cuba, the Philippines, Iceland, Colombia, Albania, Pakistan, Spain, and Mexico. Bilateral and regional issues were discussed in these meetings.

Islamic, Western Contact Groups Meet on Bosnia

LD2909085995 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq, New York, Sept. 29, IRNA — The foreign ministers of the Islamic and Western contact groups in a joint session in New York on Thursday [28 September] discussed latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the peace overtures offered by Western governments to solve the Bosnian crisis.

The goal behind the meeting which was a follow-up to a similar meeting between the two contact groups held in Paris on September 8, was to coordinate the positions of the two sides vis-a-vis the Bosnian crisis.

German and Maghreb foreign ministers Klaus Kinkel and Abdellatif Filali respectively outlined their respective groups' viewpoints on Bosnian peace process at the end of the joint session.

Kinkel said the objective behind the session was to intermingle the two contact groups' viewpoints and said foreign ministers of the international contact group would seriously continue consulting with Islamic countries in the third round of their joint meeting to be held in Rabat in October.

The German minister said the Thursday session held between the OIC contact group and the Western contact group was a sign of the international community's firm determination to restore peace to Bosnia.

He added that the OIC and international contact groups would cooperate in the field of implementing peace agreement, offering humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian nation and refugees, repatriation of refugees and reconstruction of war-devastated areas.

Filali, on his part, termed as "positive and fruitful" the outcome of the joint session, saying there are now much hope for restoration of peace in Bosnia.

Islamic countries, while underlining independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Bosnia, voiced their support for the peace plan of the international contact group, he added.

He underlined the need for sending relief aid to Bosnia and reconstruction of the republic and said that Islamic countries were ready to contribute to this purpose.

Filali said that efforts are underway to determine the composition and functions of a multi-national peacekeepiung force to be dispatched to Bosnia-Herzegovina once a peace plan for the republic is agreed upon.

He underlined the UN's role in monitoring the function of the proposed multi-national [force] which is to be dispatched to Bosnia.

Filali said that the OIC contact group want Muslim coUntries to be actively present in such an multinational force.

OIC Contact Group Meets on Jammu, Kashmir

LD2909222495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 29 Sep — A team from the Organization of the Islamic Conference's [OIC] contact group on Jammu and Kashmir held a meeting yesterday at the UN headquarters in the presence of the representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Niger, Turkey, and Pakistan, and Dr Hamid Algabid, OIC secretary general, who stressed in his opening address that the rapid deterioration of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has started to threaten the peace and security in the region.

He pointed out that the essence of the conflict in Kashmir was represented by India's denial of self-determination for the people of Kashmir as stipulated by the UN Security Council's resolutions.

The true representatives of the people of Kashmir from the two sides of the observation line also spoke during this meeting and presented a memorandum on the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir.

A statement issued today by the OIC said the chairman of the Hurriyat conference for all the parties, Mirwaz Mawlawi 'Umar Faruq, had, on behalf of the true representatives of the people of Kashmir, called for enabling the people of Jammu and Kashmir exercise their firm right in self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions.

The contact group's members expressed their total support for the just struggle of the people of Kashmir for self-determination and called for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Kashmir on the bases of the UN resolutions.

Expresses 'Solidarity' With Kashmir

BK2909050495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group on Kashmir has expressed complete solidarity with the people of Kashmir and support for their struggle to achieve the right to self-determination.

The Contact Group meeting in New York — attended among others by the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Morocco, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Niger and OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid — heard the views of members of a high-level delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference led by Chairman Mir Waiz Mohammad Omar Farooq. The meeting also heard the views of Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali later told reporters that the OIC's expression of solidarity with the people of Kashmir was very encouraging and heartening and would give impetus to the freedom struggle. He said the recommendations of the Contact Group would be placed before the annual coordination meeting of the OIC foreign ministers on 2 October.

Mir Waiz Mohammad Omar Farooq has welcomed Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's speech at the

UN General Assembly on 27 September as a forceful expression of the cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In an interview in New York, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq said the speech by Pakistan's foreign minister exposed the Indian position on the Kashmir issue as wrong and baseless. He said that Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali was correct in saying that the Indian position on the Kashmir issue was against the basic principles of international morality.

Pakistan Denies Interference in Afghanistan

BK2909050095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has strongly rebutted allegations of interference in Afghanistan and has attributed the current situation in Afghanistan to the weak and faltering government in Kabul, which is suffering as a result of its own folly in not abiding by the various agreements for setting up a representative government in that country.

Speaking at the meeting of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] ad hoc committee on Afghanistan in New York, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan would remain firm and steadfast on a path of neutrality toward the Afghan people. He said it is important to note that the allegations of interference are only coming from the group whose jurisdiction is limited to Kabul. No other Afghan leader had ever mentioned Pakistan's interference. The foreign minister recalled how Pakistan had supported the Afghan jihad against the Soviet intervention for 14 long years and had provided safety and protection to the Afghan leadership, including President Rabbani, and 3.5 million refugees. Of these, 1.5 million are still on Pakistani territory.

Islamic Call Conference Ends in Tripoli

LD2409224695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1958 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 24 Sep — The fifth conference of the Islamic Call ended this afternoon in Tripoli, in which several ministers, teachers, intellectuals, and scholars from all over the Islamic world took part. The conferees have made the following recommendations and resolutions:

First: concerning the programs and activity of the Islamic Call in the world: all those who made presentations at Conference praised the distinguished important role and the constant position of the brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, leader of the world Islamic popular command in defending the causes of Islam and Muslims all over the world. [passage omitted]

In this respect, the participants have stressed the following:

1. More interest should be attached to strengthening Islamic universities and schools with various material and moral support. [passage omitted]

2. Support should be given to the programs and activities of the Islamic Call Faculty so that it may be able to ensure the training of preachers able to face up to the campaigns of cultural invasion and sectarian and ideological deception, and to expand its activities to become a world Islamic university catering for all the branches of knowledge needed by the Islamic world.

3. There should be a growing interest in the teaching and expansion of the Arabic language, the language of the holy Koran. [passage omitted]

4. Back the information programs sponsored by public institutions involved in the area of Islamic call and make use of all the information capacities available in order to raise the degree of awareness in the Muslim communities. More specifically the conference stresses the need to work towards creating an Islamic satellite channel and a radio station that would reach vast parts of the Islamic world. These would become an effective tool to confront the campaigns against Islam and Muslims.

The conference also recommends that attention be given to films on Islam dealing with sensitive issues, proceeding from the huge benefit which the two films "The Message" and "Umar al-Mukhtar" brought to Islam and the Muslims.

5. The conference draws the attention of all Islamic organizations and bodies to the need to confront the plans of cultural invasion targetting the Muslims through the various western media and also the ensuing campaigns of normalization and capitulation which lead to the abandonment of Islamic sanctities, the dissolution of the personality of the Muslims, and the westernization of their minds thus preventing them from resuming their role in the human civilization.

In this respect, the conference mentioned the books against Islam and the Muslims and the conferences which aim at destroying the religious, moral, and social values. It also mentioned the policies that abandon Islamic sanctities.

6. Work towards encouraging public institutions involved in the areas of Islamic call to set up investment projects that will ensure self-sufficiency and end reliance on foreign money.

7. Work towards confronting all intellectual deviations that lead to sectarianism and the ensuing sectarian

and ethnic sensitivities that threaten the unity of the Muslims and waste their efforts. The conference urges all preachers to adhere to the Koran and the Sunna of His prophet and to keep away from all aspects of infighting and contention that obstruct the success of the programs of the Islamic Call.

The conference condemns all methods of exaggeration and the use of religion as a cover to achieve personal or party gains. It also [stresses the need] to protect youth with the right Islamic education to enable them to fight and correct these deviations.

8. [The conference stresses] the need to pay attention to the new converts, provide for them the climate that will enable them to integrate in a Muslim society and also to remove the problems and the obstacles that they might encounter. [passage omitted]

9. Pay attention to caring for the Muslim woman and include the activities of her institutions working in the area of Islamic call and give further support to the family and childhood programs.

10. The participants urge all preachers in the world to raise the level of their self-education and their interest in all the political, economic, and social issues concerning their societies in order to serve Islam and the Muslims.

11. The participants have decided to circulate all the recommendations and resolutions issued by this conference to all world organizations involved in the area od Islamic call with a view to serving the Islamic Call and unifying its efforts.

Second: The conference salutes the Jihad of the Palestinian Arab Muslim people. The conferees confirm their unchanging commitment to support this Jihad until all Palestine is liberated from the river to the sea and it returns as an Arab and Islamic [Palestine]. They strongly condemn all the capitulationist attempts that lead to the squandering of Palestine and disregarding the sacrifices of its sons and abandoning the Islamic shrines foremost of which Holy Jerusalem.

The conference confirms its condemnation of the policy of ethnic cleansing against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the massacres committed against children and old people and women there. At the same time the conference expresses its displeasure with the inequal and contradictory balances imposed on the United Nations and its clear complacency toward taking resolutions that are fair to the Muslims while we see it hurriedly adopting and implementing the strongest and unjust resolutions against Islamic states. Thus becoming a flexible tool serving the aims and policies of the West. The conference also confirms its firm stand toward the issue od the Muslims in the southern Philippines and their rights to self- determination on the basis of implementing the Tripoli agreement in letter and spirit. It also expresses its displeasure with the repeated attacks and violations that were committed by the authorities in the Philippines against the Muslims and it calls on the Islamic governments to apply pressure on the authorities in the Philippines in order to make them respect their declared commitments in this respect.

The conference learned about the serious conditions in Kashmir and the violations committed against mosques and the murder of innocent people. It affirmed the need to grant the Muslims of Kashmir their right to self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations. It calls on the Islamic world to intervene to put an end to the high-handed actions against the Muslims there.

The conference also expresses its great concern over the continuing bloodshed of the brothers in Afghanistan and Somalia and it appeals to them to let the holy Book of God and the Sunnah of His prophet — peace and blessing of God be upon him — be their arbiter and to work for putting an end to the suffering of the two Mujahidin people of Afghanistan and Somalia so that they can contribute to (?upsurge) of the Islamic nation.

It also salutes the Jihad of the Muslim people of Chechnya and it calls on all states and organizations [passage indistinct]

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Sep

NC2909100095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 15 September edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Brotherhood Victim of Erroneous Reports
2. Al-Hudaybi Denies Brotherhood Planned To Undermine Security
3. Referral of Brotherhood Leaders to Military Court Rejected
4. No Evidence on Sudan's Involvement in Mubarak Attack
5. 'Adil Husayn on Sudan, Iraq, Peace Negotiations, Election
6. Beijing Women's Document Backed by West
7. Security Forces Impose Tight Siege on Abu-Tij
8. Antigovernment Group Established in London

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD VICTIM OF ERRONEOUS REPORTS

Under the above headline, Qutub al-'Arabi writes on page 3 an approximately 2,000-word article in which he tries to explain why the government has recently changed its position toward the Muslim Brotherhood. The writer begins by noting that the group grew more during President Husni Mubarak's term than at any other time. He points out that the Muslim Brothers won control of the councils of many major professional associations, university clubs, and legislative and municipal councils. Although it was difficult for the government to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from scoring these successes, the writer says, it was not impossible to do that if the government wished it. The writer also notes that the government allowed the group to engage in some political action, "although through alliance with the Labor Party." It also allowed the group's views to appear in newspapers, sometimes in government press.

The writer then explains that there are two trends inside the government, one favors dialogue and understanding with the Muslim Brotherhood and another favors confrontation with and "annihilation" of the group, dubbing it as dangerous as the violent Islamic militants. The proponents of dialogue, says the writer, were more influential in the past and this was reflected in statements by President Mubarak in which he said that the Muslim Brotherhood favors political action over violence. The writer mentions Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi "before he changed his position," Dr. Usamah al-Baz, and Dr. Mustafa al-Fiqi as prominent figures of this trend. The writer notes how Hasan al-Alfi, in more than one statement to AL-SHA'B, praised the Muslim Brotherhood and labeled it as a moderate and tolerant group. The writer also points out that al-Baz and al-Fiqi repeatedly called for "integrating the Muslim Brotherhood in the political process" while demanding that the group express a more explicit condemnation of violence.

"But as things developed," the writer says, "the trend of confrontation and annihilation had more influence on decisionmaking regarding the Muslim Brotherhood. This team convinced President Mubarak that the Brothers are behind every disaster, that they spread rumors about his family, and that they are in touch with foreign quarters to seize power." The influence of this team, adds the writer, was evident in recent statements by President Mubarak in which he attacked the Muslim Brotherhood as an illegal group behind most terrorist activity.

The writer then cites Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Muslim Brotherhood deputy guide and official spokesman, as saying that the mounting campaign against the group is due to the strength of this hardline trend inside the security service. He accuses this trend of wanting to "push the Brothers and the country toward violence and explosion to justify taking oppressive and more severe measures against the Brotherhood in particular and the popular political movement in general." Al-Hudaybi adds: "I think they want to push some Brothers toward acts of violence, but the Brothers will not respond to the provocation."

The writer cites information that states that the trend of confrontation includes senior security leaders, notably Ahmad al-'Adili, chief of the State Security Intelligence Department. The trend also includes "ruling symbols of corruption, supported by some extremist, secular, anti-Islamist writers."

The writer then cites "political analysts" as saying that the growth of the Muslim Brotherhood inside society's establishments, for example, trade unions and local councils; the group's role in mobilizing the public against normalization with Israel and against "suspect" conferences like the UN conferences on women and population; and the group's relief activity after the 1992 earthquake embarrassed and annoyed the government.

The writer says the advocates of confrontation took advantage of incidents at the Lawyers Syndicate in the summer of 1994 to prove that the Muslim Brotherhood is a violent group. Accusations were leveled at Muslim Brotherhood leaders and since then "the campaign against the group has escalated." The writer says the escalation reached a climax with the arrest of 47 Muslim Brotherhood leaders and, later, their referral to a court-martial "to prevent them from running in the People's Assembly election."

Finally, the writer suggests that the government was surprised by the political forces' rejection of the court-martial of the Muslim Brotherhood leaders. "It seems strong opposition made the government wait before taking new measures against the Brothers," he says.

AL-HUDAYBI DENIES BROTHERHOOD PLANNED TO UNDERMINE SECURITY

In a 100-word unattributed report on page 1, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Muslim Brotherhood deputy guide and official spokesman, is cited as commenting on a statement attributed to Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in which he reportedly said that the Muslim Brotherhood was planning to undermine security and stability and that it has massive financial accounts in various banks. Al-Hudaybi says: "The information given to the prime minister is wrong. The memorandum presented to the State Security Prosecution by the State Security Intelligence Department, in accordance with which the arrest and interrogation of the Brothers took place, contains nothing relevant to the [prime minister's] statement."

REFERRAL OF BROTHERHOOD LEADERS TO MILITARY COURT REJECTED

A 350-word report by Qutub al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus on page 1 says the professional associations coordination committee sent a memorandum to President Husni Mubarak appealing to him to reverse the decision "to refer leaders of professional associations and other trade unionists to military courts, and to release them so that the atmosphere of stability and democracy can be strengthened." The report is accompanied by a cartoon depicting militant Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, the Philippines, Palestine, and Chechnya praying: "May God Grant Victory to Our Muslim Brothers in Egypt."

— A full-page petition appears on the back page, page 12, bearing the names of some 100 political party leaders, university professors, journalists, and trade unionists condemning the referral of Muslim Brotherhood figures to a military court and calling on President Mubarak to revoke the decision. The petition, showing pictures of eight Muslim Brotherhood figures to be court-martialed, is adorned with slogans like: No to the Trial of Civilians Before Military Courts; Down With the Accursed Emergency Law; Military Trials of Politicians Are the Climax of Oppression and Aggression on Freedom.

NO EVIDENCE OF SUDAN'S INVOLVEMENT ON MUBARAK ATTACK

An unattributed 1,200-word report on pages 1 and 8 cites a U.S. official telling the Arabic-language daily AL-HAYAH that there is no evidence Khartoum is directly involved in the attack against President Husni Mubarak. The report also cites a Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement denying accusations by the OAU's Conflict Resolution Mechanism that Sudan was involved in supporting terrorism.

— A 1,500-word article by Mahfuz 'Azzam on page 3 sees "foreign hands" in the Egyptian-Sudanese crisis. The writer criticizes some articles in AL-AHRAM calling for punishing Sudan. He says if Egypt embraces the Sudanese opposition, then it is Sudan's right to embrace the Egyptian opposition. He says the confessions made to the Ethiopian interrogators implicating Sudan in the attempt on Mubarak's life cannot be taken as fact before they are examined by the judiciary. He notes that Sudan denied the accusations and repeatedly asked the Egyptian Government to send officials to make sure that the accusations are wrong. Concluding, the writer says: "In light of all this, what is taking place today is nothing but an implementation of the American-Israeli-European scheme, which always tries to complicate Egyptian-Sudanese relations and create antagonism between the two governments."

'ADIL HUSAYN ON SUDAN, IRAQ, PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, ELECTION

In an approximately 6,000-word article that takes up the entire page and continues on page 8, 'Adil Husayn, secretary general of the Labor Party, defends Sudan and its policies. He says Egypt's campaign against Sudan is unjustified as there was no real evidence of Sudan's involvement in the assassination attempt against President Mubarak or its support for terrorism. He sees hostility against Sudan as linked with Israeli-American attempts to subjugate Iraq and Iran, impose hegemony on the Gulf region, and drive Arab negotiators to further "capitulation." Husayn cautions Egypt against involvement in Ethiopian-Israeli plans to support southern rebels in Sudan, saying these rebels seek "to divide Sudan and remove its Arab-Islamic identity." He says Ethiopia is disturbed by Sudan's Islamic orientation and Egypt, therefore, has no interest in supporting Ethiopia. Husayn says Egypt mistakenly believes that its war against the "Islamic awakening" in the region will help it restore a regional role it had lost with the signing of peace agreements in the region and with the direct presence of the U.S. forces in the Gulf.

In his lengthy article, Husayn also notes Israel's continuing efforts to Judaize Jerusalem and the crises in negotiations between Israel and both Syria and the Palestinians. And yet, he says, Israel and the United States are preparing an economic summit in Amman "to adapt Arab economies to the requirements of Zionist hegemony." The writer also describes U.S. efforts to control the oil region in the Gulf through a direct military presence and through the policy of "dual containment" of both Iraq and Iran. He praises Iraq for rebuilding its industrial base and for confronting U.S. plans in the Gulf. He attacks defector Husayn Kamil as a perpetrator of "high treason" against Arabs and Muslims, one who "violated the secrets of the nation and opened its doors to the enemies." Husayn maintains that if the plan to overthrow the Iraqi regime succeeds, an Iraqi-Jordanian-Israeli axis will emerge to divide the Arab east into two parts, which will "facilitate the American-Zionist hegemony" plan. Husayn notes efforts to foil this scheme — Syria's "changing of its tone" toward the Iraqi regime and signs of Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement. He urges an active Egyptian role in these efforts. Husayn says he believes that if Iraqi- Iranian understanding develops, "many hostile schemes would be foiled. The regime in

Iraq would be strengthened and the balance of power between us and our enemies would be redressed."

— In a 250-word boxed article within the body of his main article above, 'Adil Husayn appeals to university students to participate in the People's Assembly election and to work hard to prevent rigging and to confront the "forces of tyranny." Urging the students to exercise patience and make sacrifices to "raise high the word of God and break the shackles of coercion and humiliation," he tells them: "You are the protectors of the law and democratic reform."

BEIJING WOMEN'S DOCUMENT BACKED BY WEST

Page 2 features a 1,500-word interview with "prominent thinker" Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Misiri by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on the document of the Beijing conference on women. Al-Misiri maintains that the document was drafted "with full adoption by the West," and it seeks to promote Western concepts, which demolish "family links."

SECURITY FORCES IMPOSE TIGHT SIEGE ON ABU-TIJ

A 100-word report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi on page 1 says security services in Asyut last week imposed a "tight security siege" on the city of Abu-Tij, and that police "attacked citizens in the streets, arresting scores of them." The report says streets in the city were deserted because people were afraid to move.

ANTIGOVERNMENT GROUP ESTABLISHED IN LONDON

A 600-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says a group of Egyptians residing in London announced the formation of a society opposing the regime in Egypt.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 19 Sep

NC0210075395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 19 September edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Groups Condemn Military Trials of Brotherhood Leaders; Signatures Noted

2. Report Describes Brotherhood Trial Procedures, Summarizes Indictment

3. Sudanese Embassy Source Denies Ambassador To Be Withdrawn

4. Israeli Source Says Egypt To Provide Israel With Gas for 20 Years

5. AL-SHA'B Campaigns Forced Israel's Ambassador To Resign

6. World Bank Report Says 20 Million Egyptians Below Poverty Line

7. AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Released After Investigations Into Article

8. Chief Editor Calls On People To Unite Against Military Trials

9. EHRO Report on Prison Conditions; Methods Used Detailed

10. Column Warns Against Repercussions of Brotherhood Military Trials

11. Former Minister Not Against Brotherhood But Disagrees With Practices

12. Mashhur Denies Charges of Terrorism Against Brotherhood

GROUPS CONDEMN MILITARY TRIAL OF BROTHERHOOD LEADERS; SIGNATURES NOTED

This issue of AL-SHA'B dedicates much space to reportage on the military trials of Muslim Brotherhood leaders, which have started in Cairo. Page 1 carries a 400-word report, continued on page 8, by Qutub al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus on condemnation voiced by some groups against trying the leaders in military courts and their demands that they should be tried in civil courts. The Egyptian Action Group in London condemned the referral of the Brotherhood members to the military courts and asked the Egyptian authorities to release them. Also, the official spokesman of the Egyptian communists condemned the military trial of the Brotherhood leaders and "called on all democratic forces in the country to apply pressure to cancel this decision and stop this dangerous measure of trying civilians before military courts." The report also notes that two Brotherhood lawyers warned the newspaper AL-AHRAM that it should rectify false information and facts it published earlier that were not included in the investigation file of the Brotherhood case.

On the same subject, AL-SHA'B publishes on the back page "The Third List of Signatures," a statement signed by "politicians, intellectuals, educated people, people with opinions belonging to the various intellectual and political trends in Egypt, and independents" condemning the referral to the military courts of a group of Brotherhood members. The statement says in part: "While condemning this measure we ask the president of the Republic to stop it immediately and to maintain the right of these people to be tried before their natural judge, particularly since we are at a stage in which the nation aspires to expanding the circle of freedom to prepare for the People's Assembly elections."

REPORT DESCRIBES BROTHERHOOD TRIAL PROCEDURES, SUMMARIZES INDICTMENT

Page 3 publishes a 2,500-word report by Qutub al-'Arabi in which he discusses the first session of the Brotherhood members' military court trial held in the military district of Haekstep near Cairo. The first part of the report is dedicated to providing details on the proceedings before and during the trial, such as the arrival of the defendants and journalists at the courtroom, the reading of the indictment, and other matters. He then notes the formation of the defense council, which contains three Copts as members. After presenting parts of the indictment, al-'Arabi says in his report: "It was clear that the indictment contained no accusation that acts of violence had been committed or help had been given to commit such acts either directly or indirectly. The indictment contained no accusation of contacts with foreign governments or non-Egyptian figures, contrary to what is still being reported by some newspapers regarding the relationship between the Brothers and armed groups inside and outside Egypt and coordination with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan. The indictment mentioned none of these points." Al-'Arabi also notes that the indictment did not even mention that the Brotherhood was an illegal organization or that one of its methods was terrorism. He said it relied primarily on the memorandum presented by the State Security Investigation Department. The writer then mocks the memorandum, which claims that the Brotherhood wants to change the regime not through the use of violence, "but by infiltrating the vital institutions and popular sectors" that would enable them to acquire a strong footing inside and take control of things that way. The State Security Investigation also accuses them of "holding honest elections to form a shura council for the group," contrary to the elections held by the Interior Ministry. Al-'Arabi adds that the memorandum also condemns the Brotherhood's way of thinking, which calls for applying Islamic shari'ah, establishing an Islamic state, and performing jihad for the sake of God's religion. The report then publishes parts of the memorandum submitted by the State Security Investigation Department and that formed the basis for the indictment. The same page publishes a list of the names of the 49 Brotherhood defendants who have been referred to the military courts.

SUDANESE EMBASSY SOURCE DENIES AMBASSADOR TO BE WITHDRAWN

Page 1 publishes a 400-word report in which the media attache at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo and spokesman for the embassy denies that the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo will be leaving soon or that there will be a reduction in staff. He described Egypt's decision "to cancel the appointment of Ambassador Hilmi Budayr as Egyptian ambassador to Sudan as an unjustified escalation." The report also notes the arrival of the Sudanese foreign minister in Cairo to take part in the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers. AL-SHA'B claims that it has learned that there are attempts at mediation by Libya and Syria to convene a meeting of the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers. It is doubtful such a meeting will be held, since Egypt believes the Sudanese foreign minister is Dr. al-Turabi's right-hand man and an active member of his Islamic Front.

ISRAELI SOURCE SAYS EGYPT TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH GAS FOR 20 YEARS

A 70-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that the spokeswoman for the Israeli Energy Ministry said that Egypt has officially agreed to provide Israel with gas for 20 years.

AL-SHA'B CAMPAIGNS FORCED ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO RESIGN

Mahmud Bakri writes a 200-word report on page 1 in which he alleges that "the campaigns AL-SHA'B led regarding the Zionist massacres of Egyptian POW's, and the Israeli ambassador in Cairo's role in these massacres have forced the ambassador to submit his resignation as ambassador to Egypt "because he has been ostracized by every circle, including governmental." He notes that the Israeli Government did not accept his resignation. The report adds that Egypt finalized a report on the killing of Egyptian POW's, which it submitted to the "Zionists" last week. Egypt reportedly asked Israel to submit evidence regarding allegations that Egyptian soldiers killed Israeli prisoners during the 1973 war and expressed willingness to investigate such evidence.

WORLD BANK REPORT SAYS 20 MILLION EGYPTIANS BELOW POVERTY LINE

A 100-word report on page 1 by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi notes that a World Bank study carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs reveals that "the number of Egyptians who fall below the poverty line is 20 million." Statistics showed that the number of cases whose income is under 100 Egyptian pounds a month is 10 million people.

AL-SHA'B CHIEF EDITOR RELEASED AFTER INVESTIGATIONS INTO ARTICLE

Page 1 also publishes a 150-word report by Dawud Hasan, which says that the president of the prosecution in the prosecutor general's technical office, Counselor Muhammad Khayr-al-Din, ordered the release of AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn after a day of investigations regarding an article published in the newspaper accusing a minister's son of thuggery. The son of the interior minister submitted a statement to the prosecution objecting to the article. Majdi Ahmad Husayn assumed full responsibility for the article and refused to divulge the name of its author.

CHIEF EDITOR CALLS ON PEOPLE TO UNITE AGAINST MILITARY TRIALS

AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn writes a 3,500-word article on page 2 entitled "Let Us All Unite To Topple the Government of Mental Retardation." In this article he attacks the government for trying the Brotherhood members in military courts, which he believes is a measure to intimidate the Brotherhood and other parties into not running in the elections. He notes the government's attempts at hindering opposition parties from running in the elections, such as the arrest of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, the issuing of Law No. 93 to massacre press freedoms, and the Muslim Brothers' trials before military courts. The government had to go back on the first two measures because of public pressure. But it seems that this time round the government has lost its mind and is bent on persisting with the Brotherhood's military trials. He blames government officials for losing touch with the people, thus issuing "reckless and incomprehensible resolutions, which we, very politely, label as unintelligent." Husayn writes: "The decision to try civilians before military courts is rejected by the whole nation—by all its sects—and the nation will continue to reject it. This costs the rulers their legitimacy, because the people's satisfaction is the essence of legitimacy, particularly since this decision violates the Constitution." He maintains that no writer, whether from the opposition or the government side, has justified this decision convincingly. He sees the public erupting against the government soon, because, he says, the government is isolated from the people. Husayn adds: "Finishing the trials of the Brotherhood leaders quickly before the elections will not only prevent the sentenced leaders from running in the elections—this is the easiest method—but will darken the skies above the election process with heavy clouds, since supporters will shy away from backing the Islamic current for fear of military trials." The opposition will then not run in the elections seriously and will knock on the back door for only one or two seats in the Assembly. Husayn argues: "Despite the opinions of all the pessimists, we have unlimited confidence in these honest people and their ability to upset every formula."

Husayn proceeds to describe the readiness and willingness of the people to die, be tortured, or be put in prison for the sake of justice. He says the people resist the government daily. Husayn accuses the government of not setting a date for elections and of manipulating the date issue for tactical reasons. He says it has not even announced when election nominations start. Husayn claims the government leaks some information to some papers and contradictory information to others. He asserts: "All the manipulation, nay, even the military courts, will not make the government do without its main and decisive measure of rigging elections." He warns it not to play with fire and tells it to study the opposition's demands for guaranteeing fair elections, stop the military trials immediately, cancel the emergency law, let all forms of election propaganda be conducted freely, and open up equal opportunities before all parties. Husayn concludes by citing recent reports about the absence of iodine and iron from subsidized salt and bread. This, according to experts, has led to mental retardation among children. He closes his article with the following: "For the sake of Egypt's children, we will all unite to topple the government of mental retardation. The black scenario for faking the will of the nation will be toppled, God willing."

EHRO REPORT ON PRISON CONDITIONS; METHODS USED DETAILED

Page 4 publishes a 3,500-word unattributed article on the third report released by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] on conditions in prisons and the absence of prisoners' rights in Egypt. The report discusses the phenomenon of sending prisoners to remote prisons [al-taghrib], such as those in al-Wadi al-Jadid or Wadi al-Natrun, where, it says, the ugliest forms of torture are practiced against prisoners. Basic health services are absent from most of these prisons. The report notes that the EHRO report claims to have enough evidence to prove that the prosecution does not follow up on conditions in these remote prisons as it is supposed to do according to the law. It adds that there are violations inside the prisons that have themselves become the norm. Some of these violations are:

"1. Preventing detainees from contacting their lawyers.

"2. Preventing family members from visiting their detained sons.
"3. Using bad living conditions and the absence of basic health conditions as a form of punishment for detainees.
"4. Preventing detainees from studying and depriving them of sitting for their exams.
"5. Using prison inspection campaigns as a form of group punishment."

The report concludes by calling for respect for the principles of human rights, particularly those of prisoners.

COLUMN WARNS AGAINST REPERCUSSIONS OF BROTHERHOOD MILITARY TRIALS

Ahmad al-Suyufi writes his 400-word "Vision" column entitled "Elections and the Military Courts" on page 7 in which he discusses the military trials of the Brotherhood leaders. The column notes that all parties, thinkers, and politicians reject the military trials of the Brotherhood members. The column maintains that such a move degrades the valiant Armed Forces by involving them in an election issue that is really none of their business. He says he believes that this move "shows that we are up against people who have lost their sanity and against rulers who tamper with the homeland's security in return for cheap gains and a few parliamentary seats." He asks: How can elections take place in two months while there are so many restrictions on freedoms and while military trials of civilians continue? He warns that these elections are the last chance for the government to prove its legitimacy and credibility. Otherwise, the door to change through violent means will be open. He concludes: "The farce of referring civilians to the military courts must be stopped. Application of the emergency law and other freedom-restricting laws must be abolished." The people should be given the freedom to express their opinions freely. He warns: "Otherwise, God knows what the alternative will be. We ask God for peace."

FORMER MINISTER NOT AGAINST BROTHERHOOD BUT DISAGREES WITH PRACTICES

Page 8 publishes an unattributed 50-word report on a statement by Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, former minister of housing and construction, in which he reacts to a report published in AL-SHA'B that "he is not against the Brotherhood and that he belonged to it in his youth." He says he still disagrees with the practices of some leaders in the Engineers Association, who belong to the Brotherhood, regarding their understanding of Islam.

MASHHUR DENIES CHARGES OF TERRORISM AGAINST BROTHERHOOD

Mustafa Mashhur, deputy guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, writes a 1,500-word article on page 5 in which he defends his group against charges of terrorism and beseeches God to end government "injustice." Mashhur begins by stating that the Muslim Brotherhood "has long been wronged." He says many arrests have been made in recent years "although all the detainees are innocent." Maintaining that the Egyptian public has been sympathetic toward the group's activity in trade unions, university clubs, and local councils, Mashhur comments: "This is natural because the Egyptian people are religiously oriented and the Brothers call for Islam moderately, wisely, and through good counsel, without stubbornness, extremism, or deviation."

He says the public's acceptance of the Muslim Brotherhood and its services annoyed the government and provoked it into a campaign of "harassment" and "defamation" against the group. But because this did not shake people's confidence in the group, he says, the government drafted "suspect laws," such as the professional association law, the terrorism law, and the law on the appointment of village heads.

Mashhur adds: "The external climate of anti-Islamic fundamentalism affected Egypt. The security [forces] dealt with the groups of al-Jihad and the Islamic Group and this resulted in an escalation that could have been avoided by unleashing freedoms and engaging in dialogue." He goes on: "There was a huge number of victims on both sides. The reshuffle of cards started and the Brothers were accused of supporting terrorism. This is a false, unfounded accusation; no Muslim Brotherhood member took part in any act of violence." Mashhur also disputes that the Muslim Brotherhood is an illegal group. "There is no law that prevents the activity of the Brothers," he says.

Mashhur then notes that the decision to refer some Muslim Brotherhood figures to the military court was denounced and rejected "by all parties and groups." But, he says, the government was undeterred. "It is clear that the motive is to prevent them from running in the People's Assembly elections, although the prime minister denied it," he says. Mashhur also describes as false the accusation that the Muslim Brotherhood is a secret group that possesses huge amounts of money and organizes combat training. He claims that the rulers want to remain in their positions of power and that they "reject any means for change."

Mashhur then complains to God about this government "injustice and coercion" against the group and expresses confidence in God's help. He warns those involved in the injustice that they will not escape God's punishment. He stresses: "We are not seeking power for ourselves, but are demanding the implementation of Islamic shari'ah and a constitutional rotation of power." Mashhur finally calls for "fair" elections so that there can be trust and cooperation between the people and the elected government. He maintains that the country's crises cannot be solved by "coercion and injustice, but by freedom and justice."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 19 Sep

NC2409181395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 19 September edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Contribution Funds in Mosques Canceled
2. Minister Cited on Implementation of Beijing Document
3. Hearing of Circumcision Case Against al-Azhar Chief Postponed
4. 'New Religious Awareness Plan' Devised
5. Mufti's Statement on Beijing Women's Conference Criticized
6. Bosnian College Dean Interviewed on Muslims' Situation
7. Writer Views Islamic-Western Ties

CONTRIBUTION FUNDS IN MOSQUES CANCELED

A 40-word, front-page report compiled by Muhammad al-Abnudi says Awqaf Minister Dr. Mahjub has decided to cancel contribution- collection funds in mosques "to keep the mosques clear and free of any suspicion."

The minister added that contributions to mosques should be given through accredited religious alms committees with receipts from the authorities concerned.

MINISTER CITED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BEIJING DOCUMENT

A 100-word unattributed report on the same page cites Population Minister Dr. Mahir Mahran's remarks on the Beijing Document.

The report says Minister Mahran has emphasized that Egypt will not implement all the recommendations of the Beijing Document. He adds that Egypt will be committed to implementing recommendations that fit Egypt in line with priorities concerning "our society" and "our Islamic shari'ah." He notes that these recommendations are not binding for all countries and that each country selects what is fit for it. Therefore, he says, "We will Egyptianize the document and consider it a national, not global, document."

Meanwhile, Dr. Aminah al-Jundi, moderator of the National Women's Committee, says the Egyptian delegation's participation in the conference had "a strong effect" at Arab and Islamic levels in dealing with numerous issues concerning Islam.

HEARING OF CIRCUMCISION CASE AGAINST AL-AZHAR CHIEF POSTPONED

A 300-word, unattributed report on page 2 says a court has adjourned until 2 December a circumcision case filed against Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq. Defending al-Azhar's shaykh, Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri produced 'AQIDATI's 145th issue, referring to a report confirming that "circumcision prevents AIDS." The report clarifies that the court had held a session to hear a suit field by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization against the grand imam over his religious decree that females must be circumcised.

'NEW RELIGIOUS AWARENESS PLAN' DEVISED

A 200-word, unattributed report on page 2 says Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has announced that a new religious awareness plan has been devised. He adds that the plan has been designed in cooperation with the education, agriculture, social affairs, and health ministries to educate the public in various provinces and in schools and universities. He says the plan will involve ulema from the awqaf ministry and al-Azhar and social and health officials who will conduct weekly tours in various schools and universities to answer students' questions.

The awqaf minister also says that mosques have open their doors to private lessons for students for nominal fees, not exceeding 50 piasters, under a joint plan with the education ministry to alleviate parents' burden.

Dr. Mahjub warns against using the mosques for election campaigns.

MUFTI'S STATEMENT ON BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CRITICIZED

On page 7, Dr. Hamid Mahmud Isma'il of al-Azhar University writes a 400-word article criticizing Mufti Sayyid Muhammad Tantawi's remarks on the UN Women's conference in Beijing. He says he was astonished to read the mufti's statement published in AL-AHRAM's 13 September issue that the conference's recommendations did not contradict Islamic shari'ah, especially on equality between men and women.

The writer says: "If the mufti's decree is true, this needs a comment. The decree was issued at a time when there was strong argument and debate on the equality issue and some delegations expressed reservations about it. The West sought to impose its concept of this equality on the Third World countries according to its own culture and traditions."

BOSNIAN COLLEGE DEAN INTERVIEWED ON MUSLIMS' SITUATION

Page 20 runs an approximately 670-word interview with the dean of the Islamic Studies College in Bosnia, conducted by Muhammad al- Abnudi.

Answering the interviewer's questions, the dean says at the beginning: "The Serbs seek expansion at the Muslims' expense. They have agreed with Europe to displace the Muslims because they do not want an Islamic state, even a small one, in the heart of Europe." He adds: "The Serbians' racism does not allow any race or religion other than their own race and religion to coexist with them. To achieve this, they have launched a war of annihilation and ethnic and racist cleansing against us even though we represent 52 percent of the population, the Serbs 30 percent, and the Croats 18 percent."

Replying to a question on the Muslims' reaction to "what is happening to their holy places and language", he says: "Despite our suffering, as Muslims we preserve the Islamic model." He adds that the Bosnian president urged the Muslim army to adhere to Islam's principles in the war and that he issued a decree for the execution of anyone who kills an elderly man, a woman, or child in the war. "We also venerate churches and mosques alike to practically assert Islam's tolerance to the entire world," he notes.

Answering a question on the ulema's role in mobilizing Islamic public opinion in support of Bosnia, he says: "We have sent many messages to senior Muslim ulema world-wide. We explained to them the Bosnian Muslims' suffering from persecution and torture and urged them to adopt a unified and firm stand toward the Serbs and their supporters."

Asked how the Bosnian Muslims "defend themselves against the Serb forces" under the embargo imposed on them, he says they expected a more positive stand from the Islamic countries. He remarks: "But the Islamic world seems unable to adopt such stands, at least at present as it is suffering from internal conflicts and divisions."

WRITER VIEWS ISLAMIC-WESTERN TIES

A 360-word article written by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf on page 24 discusses relations between Islam and the West. The writer says these ties are "complex and thorny" and have many aspects.

One of these aspects, he says, is the interest in studying Islam as a cultural trend in various spheres, such as sciences, economics, sociology, and government.

In other aspects, he adds, there is "strong hostility toward and flagrant war on Islam and Muslims." He goes on: "The most prominent examples of this are the ethnic cleansing to which the Bosnian people are being subjected and the persecution or discrimination suffered by the Muslim minorities in various European countries."

He also claims that one of the aspects to these ties is "the deliberate mixup between Islam and the Muslims and the unjustified hostile stand toward Islam as a religion because of mistakes committed by Muslims as human beings."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Sep

NC0210213395

[FBIS Editorial Report]The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 September edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Ulema Denounce Civilians' Trial by Military Courts
2. Israel's Rabin Sets Demands for Investigation Into POW's
3. Friday Prayers Banned in 'Most' Mosques in Two Cities
4. Cairo University's Islamist Students Restricted
5. Prisoner Dies of Torture
6. Prosecution Charges Against Muslim Brothers Detailed
7. Interior Ministry Policy on Torturing Prisoners Noted
8. Labor Party Official Addresses Students on Islamic Policy
9. Labor Party Official Views Campaign Against Muslim Brothers
10. Islamist Students Dismissed From Dormitories
11. Grants For Foreign Muslim Students in al-Azhar Cease

AL-AZHAR ULEMA DENOUNCE CIVILIANS' TRIAL BY MILITARY COURTS

A 480-word, unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says the "al- Azhar ulema front" has issued a statement denouncing the trial of civilians in military courts. The front urged the cancellation of a decree passed on 2 September referring "some civilians"—which AL-SHA'B notes are Muslim Brothers—to military courts. Among them is "a prominent scholar", director general of preaching at al-Azhar.

The report adds that the "national committee for defending the Muslim Brothers" is now examining the papers from the case. It also says that the defense jury members "yesterday" submitted two memorandums to the Journalists Association and the Higher Press Council asking them to urge journalists "to seek accuracy and objectivity" when reporting the Brothers case.

ISRAEL'S RABIN SETS DEMANDS FOR INVESTIGATION INTO POW'S

A 260-word, front-page report by Mahmud Bakri says: "In a new provocative measure, terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist enemy, has asked the Egyptian Government to meet numerous Israeli demands in exchange for agreeing to investigate the prisoner issue."

According to the report, Rabin's demands include:

1. Adopting measures for comprehensive normalization of Egyptian- Israeli relations;

2. Forming a higher committee between the two sides under the supervision of Egyptian and Israeli prime ministers;

3. The Egyptian prime minister should visit Israel in October to agree with Israeli officials on a document to normalize relations;

4. Egypt and Israel should reach a common view on economic projects for the region to be forwarded to the upcoming Amman economic summit and the Barcelona summit; and

5. Forming a permanent headquarters for the higher coordination committee between the two sides.

The report notes that these Israeli demands come "amid growing popular anger at the Zionist crimes against Egyptian prisoners."

FRIDAY PRAYERS BANNED IN 'MOST' MOSQUES IN TWO CITIES

A 150-word report by Rashid 'Adil Abu-Zayd on pages 1 and 8 says: "In a serious, unprecedented move, the governor of al-Buhayrah obtained a decree from the so-called higher committee for religious awareness. The decree bans officiating Friday prayer rituals in most mosques in the cities of Damanhur and Rashid and limits these rituals to major mosques, even though 90 percent of the mosques, including their preachers and imams, belong to the Awqaf Ministry."

CAIRO UNIVERSITY'S ISLAMIST STUDENTS RESTRICTED

A 100-word, front-page report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid says that with the start of the new school year, the "Islamic trend" students at Cairo University suffered restrictions from the administration of some colleges. The measure was in response to the students who offered "services to their colleagues, such as installing guidance boards and lecture schedules."

PRISONER DIES OF TORTURE

A 60-word report on the same page by the newspaper's correspondent in Asyut says Dayrut City "last Wednesday" received the news of the death of one of its residents who had been detained since 1992 when the conflict began between Islamic groups and the police. The report adds that the man died of continuous torture in prison.

PROSECUTION CHARGES AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERS DETAILED

An approximately 1,800-word report on page 3 by Qutb al-'Arabi details the prosecution charges against eight detained Muslim Brotherhood members who have been referred to military courts.

In the introduction, the author says the State Security and military prosecutors relied on a memorandum of the State Security detectives in indicting the Brothers' leaders who have been referred to the military judiciary. He says the main charge against them is the holding of elections for the Muslim Brotherhood leaders in all provinces of the republic. The elections' aim was to elect members for the Brothers' consultative council, officials for provinces, cities, and districts, and to elect a general guide.

He notes: "This should have been regarded as a commendable act, not a charge against them. It is a development of utmost importance in the Muslim Brothers' ideology and organization and for the Egyptian democratic experiment in general." He adds that when the Brothers' move was reported by AL-MUSAWWAR, "political circles" received it with appreciation and regarded it as an important step toward accepting the Brothers in the political process and as a sign of their political maturity.

INTERIOR MINISTRY POLICY ON TORTURING PRISONERS NOTED

An approximately 1,650-word report on the same page by Hasan al- Qamhawi deals with poor prison conditions and the Interior Ministry's policy on prisoners. The author says the ministry's policy can be summarized by saying prisoners are sent to remote areas far from their original places of residence to exhaust them, their families, and their lawyers physically and morally and visits are banned. Sick prisoners, especially those with chronic diseases, are neglected as a means of torture and physical liquidation and are offered little food. They are also subjected to "all forms of psychological torture", including depriving them of water, deforming their faces, forcing them to chant slogans in support of the Interior Ministry, and making them call themselves by female names.

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL ADDRESSES STUDENTS ON ISLAMIC POLICY

An approximately 870-word, unattributed report on page 4 deals with "the first conference" of university students held at the Labor Party main headquarters, which was attended by "scores of Egyptian university students, who are members of the Labor Party."

Addressing the students, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn spoke about the party's "Islamic vision." He said the party relies on Islam as a source for its policy and programs and, through its understanding of Islam, the party seeks to create "suitable solutions for the affairs of our age." He said the party speaks about "restoring the rule of Islam in its true and sincere sense, which originates from both the heart and mind." He adds "we" should have scientific superiority so that "we will become a strong nation" and that Islam will not regain its glowing origins unless Muslims top the world in science.

He notes that the party's call for Islam depends on wisdom and good advice "to win the masses' support and establish the rule of Islam." He says assuming power is "a religious duty that cannot be forsaken" and power must be assumed through "various means". "The way we envisage as right for us is to benefit from the legal capabilities in our political system so that our party can rally the masses in the next elections and work to make them fair," he adds.

The conference's recommendations include "full support for the besieged Arab Muslim nations" in Libya, Iraq, and Sudan and for Islamic nations in Bosnia and Chechnya. The recommendations also include the rejection of "all capitulatory solutions which call for wasting Muslims' rights to Arab Muslim Palestine."

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL VIEWS CAMPAIGN AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERS

As always, page 5 is entirely devoted to Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, who in this issue, attacks the government and accuses it of always forging elections.

Noting the government's campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood, he says: "We know and the people know that the aim of the current war against the Brothers is to forge the elections even before they begin but the government tries to deny this." He adds: "The government's war against the advocates of an Islamic solution is known and not a secret. He continues: "The Islamic program of the Labor Party and the Brothers offers an integrated alternative to what the government is doing. All provisions of this program, which extricates Egypt from its mistakes, stem from the principle of slavery to God only."

He says: "We acknowledge that what we are calling for completely contradicts what is happening in our country now. Despite this we are working within the framework of the current Constitution, which stipulates that Islamic shari'ah is the primary source for legislation. The government, which contradicts our principle, is the one that is violating the Constitution."

Addressing government officials, he says: "We advise and warn you of the consequences of your actions at home and abroad. The people are astonished by your audacity against God and your persistent attempts to put his light out. The people cannot believe their eyes as they see the Egyptian Government devoting itself to a war against Islamic awakening in all parts of the world, not only in Egypt."

Continuing his article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn asks why the government insists on backing the "bloody, fascist military band" in Algeria. Still addressing the government, he says: "This gang, which is subject to France, threatens Algeria's Arabism but you do not care. Your fear that Islamists there may win through free elections overwhelms the fear of Germany, Britain, and the United States.

He adds: "Even Islam's upsurge in Turkey received frightened analyses from AL-MUSAWWAR and other state-run newspapers. The growing strength of the Welfare Party might arouse concern and fears in the West. But why does it arouse the fears of the Egyptian Government? He remarks that if there are some who fear the Islamic revolution in Iran because it is "radical", the Welfare Party in Turkey is a reformist institution seeking change in a democratic way. Besides, he adds, the restoration of Islam to Turkey turns this "great industrial and military power to our side" in the region instead of being a force linked with NATO and supportive of Israel.

He says: "So it is a war against all forms of Islam's awakening. It is a war supporting and even outdoing hostile schemes. What is taking place in Egypt now against the Islamic movement is part of this general trend."

He says: "All nationalist and democratic forces" should be eager to unite as the "opponents of autocracy" did in Algeria. He adds that all opposition parties in Egypt should reject any offer from the government to allocate seats for them in the next People's Assembly in exchange for abandoning the Islamists.

ISLAMIST STUDENTS DISMISSED FROM DORMITORIES

A 420-word report on page 8 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad says: "A state of strong disaffection prevails among al-Azhar University students after the security authorities tightened their grip on the university administration. It adds: This also comes after the authorities dismissed more than 200 excellent students from the student dormitories in Madinat Nasr because of their Islamic inclinations."

The report says the move is a prelude to wide-scale security persecution of Islamic students.

GRANTS FOR FOREIGN MUSLIM STUDENTS IN AL-AZHAR CEASE

Page 8 also runs a 400-word report compiled by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il on the status of students from Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union studying at al-Azhar.

The report says more than 150 of these students are liable to be expelled from Egypt to their countries because al-Azhar refuses to guarantee them after the Doctors Association's Humanitarian Relief Committee stopped giving them aid.

Officials of the Doctors Association's Relief Committee had asked al-Azhar, the Kuwaiti Alms House, the Central Asia Charity Committee, and the Islamic World League to sponsor Muslim students from Dagestan, Tajikstan, and Uzbekistan who are studying at al- Azhar and other religious institutions in Cairo. But, the report says, these agencies refused to sponsor them claiming that they belong to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Marzuq Group Threatens Americans in Territories

JN0210174295 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 8

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An organization called "The Students of Musa Abu-Marzuq" has threatened to kill every American in the Gaza Strip and West Bank if the U.S. Government fails to release its leader, Musa Abu-Marzuq, who was arrested by U.S. authorities last July.

AL-BILAD received a faxed copy of a statement written in English blaming the CIA for the arrest of Abu-Marzuq in coordination with Israel. The statement tells Americans: You will be wrong if you think that you can do whatever you like and get off scot-free. You must realize that Abu-Marzuq students can kill every American here in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank very easily.

The statement, which was faxed from the United States, added: We warn you that if your government does not release our leader, we will make your life here hell.

It went on to say: The Students of Abu-Marzuq Organization asserts that it has no relationship with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. If the U.S. Government does not release Abu- Marzuq, the organization will turn the Gaza Strip and the West Bank into a second Lebanon. The organization has the capability and the army to do such a thing.

Hamas leadership sources in the Gaza Strip denied any knowledge of the statement, emphasizing that they have nothing to do with the statement. They would not comment further on the issue. At the same time, however, Hamas did not issue any statement clarifying its position on the threats made by Abu-Marzuq students in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

A political analyst and expert in fundamentalist political movements said he fears that small, extremist groups will emerge now that the Hamas movement has been marginalized and the influence of the radical wing in its leadership receded following the arrest campaigns staged by the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip. The campaigns targeted the symbols of extremism who masterminded the military operations against Israeli targets over the past months. The analyst added that such groups may emerge in the aftermath of two dissension incidents inside the movement—the formation of the Islamic, Palestinian Path Movement, and other developments inside the movement which will be revealed in the coming days.

PLO Reportedly Working To Free Abu-Marzuq

JN0210175895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
2 Oct 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO has begun efforts to secure the release of Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Movement's Political Bureau, who has been under arrest in the United States since 25 July. Jordan has also pledged to undertake similar efforts.

Within this context, during his latest visit to the United States, Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], met with Abu-Marzuq's wife Nadiya al-'Ashshi and his sons. Al-Za'nun also met with Abu-Marzuq's attorney Stanley Cohen, who delivered to him a letter from Abu-Marzuq to which he responded in writing. Moreover, al-Za'nun also met with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Amudi, executive director of the Muslim-American Council, and received from him a message in this regard. Al-Za'nun asked to visit Abu-Marzuq in jail, but his attorney, who is a Jew, convinced him to change his mind even though the visit is possible, so that Zionist media would not employ it against the PLO, accusing it of supporting terrorism.

Abu-Marzuq's wife delivered to al-Za'nun a message from her detained husband. The message expresses Abu-Marzuq's thanks for the efforts by the acting PNC speaker to secure his release. Before his visit to the United States, al-Za'nun sent a legal memorandum to the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]. In the memorandum, which deals with Abu-Marzuq's case, al-Za'nun asked the APU to try to secure the release of the prominent Palestinian leader, explaining the legal dimensions of his case.

In his message to al-Za'nun, Abu-Marzuq stressed that his arrest is a political rather than a legal issue, and that he will be released in the end without being handed over to Israel. However, he focused on the need to intensify efforts to release him before the U.S. judiciary receives an Israeli request for his extradition, because this would mean that the U.S. court would have to begin discussing the Israeli request—which could take years—at the end of which it will reject the request and release him.

Abu-Marzuq's family asked that 'Arafat personally intercede with the U.S. Administration, since this is a political issue that should be dealt with through political means. Al-Za'nun noted that Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir telephoned Abu- Marzuq's wife and told her that Jordan will undertake efforts to secure his release.

In a reply to Abu-Marzuq's letter, al- Za'nun agreed that his detention is a political affair aimed at keeping him in custody for as long as possible, even though his detention is "indefensible on legal grounds." He also pledged to continue to follow this issue at the legislative and judicial levels. Moreover, he vowed to relay his message to President 'Arafat once he returns to Amman. He indicated that 'Arafat had actually asked various international figures, including French President Jacques Chirac, to intercede with the U.S. Administration over this issue in the early days of his detention.

In the message al-'Amudi addressed to al-Za'nun, he asked the latter to request that His Majesty King Husayn intercede with the U.S. Administration to ensure the release of Abu-Marzuq. Al-'Amudi added: "This affair has a political significance; and this dictates that it be addressed through the proper channels."

Al-'Amudi also asked al-Za'nun to enlist the support of his moderate and influential colleagues, including [former Jordanian Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister] Kamil al-Sharif, as well as current and former speakers of the Jordanian House of Representatives in this endeavor.

Al-'Amudi, a prominent Islamic leader in the United States, expressed confidence that "our shared and sincere interests will bring us closer to one another in the future." He added: "We all have the right to demonstrate optimism, because our shared destiny requires us to display courage."

The meeting between al-Za'nun and Abu-Marzuq's lawyer lasted two full hours. At the end of the meeting Cohen said that he learned much from al-Za'nun's experience as a former prosecutor general in the Gaza Strip, which began in 1955, particularly with regard to the status of the Gaza Strip as an independent entity, as manifested in its relations with other states, including Egypt, and its handling of cases of wanted people.

Al-Za'nun said he explained to the lawyer that Egypt under 'Abd- al-Nasir insisted on viewing the Gaza Strip as the remaining part of Palestine which must turn into a state in the future. That is why the Palestinian laws issued during the British mandate era were kept intact. In 1962, 'Abd-al-Nasir, in his capacity as president of Egypt, promulgated the Basic Law of the Gaza Strip, according to which the Strip acted as an independent entity in its dealings with other states, including Egypt.

Assassination Attempts on 'Arafat Reportedly Foiled

NC0310073295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0705 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—The weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH, in its issue to be published tomorrow, quotes what it describes as a senior Palestinian source saying that several Iranian officials and a group of Palestinian dissidents met in Tehran recently to discuss the possibility of assassinating Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during the negotiations to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

The source told the magazine that the conferees' aim was to obstruct the negotiations. But they failed to carry out their plan before the agreement was initialed in Taba. They held another meeting to discuss carrying out their plan in Washington before the agreement was finally signed but the abortive attempt was immediately uncovered.

The magazine has given no details of how the two attempts were uncovered or of the fate of the would-be assassins.

Minister Sees Possible Delay in Implementing Accord

NC0310075895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PA minister of finance, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Has the implementation of the Taba, or Oslo-B, agreement actually started and are there any obstacles?

[Al-Nashashibi] Implementation has not started. A date for implementation has been announced but this date is not in line with the date specified for starting redeployment. The Israeli authorities have announced that the Israeli Civil Administration will pull out of 12 Arab villages. Under the agreement the redeployment must begin 10 days from the date of signing the agreement in Washington. But Israel has made no official announcement to that effect. Instead, it started to leak unofficial reports to the press, citing military sources, to give the impression that the redeployment will start in November, which is contrary to the agreement reached at the last minute. Under that agreement, the redeployment must start 10 days after it is signed in Washington.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Then you expect Israel to prevaricate?

[Al-Nashashibi] We do not want to jump to conclusions but we do not rule that out.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Regarding the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, the first batch was supposed to be released with the signing of the agreement in Washington. What are the reasons for the delay?

[Al-Nashashibi] This is another flagrant violation. The agreement states that at least 1,300 prisoners, including all sister prisoners and detainees, are to be released upon the signing of the agreement. But the Israeli president has announced that he will decide on this issue following the Knesset debate on the agreement, which is scheduled for Thursday [5 October], I think. This is the reason for the delay. There is nothing in the agreement that says the release of prisoners and detainees depends on the endorsement of the agreement by the Israeli Knesset.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But promises were made following the Taba agreement to release the detainees in stages, the first to begin immediately after the signing.

[Al-Nashashibi] Yes. This is what the agreement says. All sister prisoners are to be included in the 1,300 people to be released.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Several parties have promised aid, including the United States, which promised to grant $500 million to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to carry out reconstruction projects. How do you view this issue and do you expect the fate of these promises to be the same as that of earlier promises?

[Al-Nashashibi] This promise does not constitute part of the [word indistinct], a decision on which is supposed to be made later. The sum worth mentioning here is the $100 million promised by the Saudi foreign minister, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, as a donation from Saudi Arabia to implement development and infrastructure projects. As for the $50 million from USAID [last acronym in English], it covers some projects for water treatment and road construction in the West Bank. Two meetings are to be held soon. The first, by the Advisory Group of the donor states, will be held on 17 and 18 October to thoroughly examine the projects that need to be financed as part of the reconstruction of the infrastructure. Another meeting of the donor states will be held this year to renew their commitment to their pledges to pay for the implementation of infrastructure projects and as aid to the PA. Several attempts have been made to postpone the announcement of this commitment but we hope that this time the promises will be genuine and the commitment firm. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Statement on Retaliatory Operation

JN0210190595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Statement by "a military spokesman" for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC); date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To confirm our people's rejection of the deal of relinquishing our sacred Palestinian land in return for a frail self-rule and to emphasize our people's commitment to their right to liberate and restore their land, a PFLP-GC commando group attacked a Zionist patrol with missile shells and machine guns in al-Shaqif Arnun area in the occupied part of southern Lebanon on the morning of Sunday, 1 October. The patrol comprised a number of tanks and half-tracked vehicles. A Merkava tank was destroyed in the attack.

The PFLP-GC spokesman added that the confusion which permeated the enemies' ranks increased injuries and deaths among the soldiers. In the wake of the attack, enemy troops positioned on Qal'at al-Shaqif and its surroundings shelled the area where the attack took place. Then, fierce clashes erupted for hours between the heroes of the attacking group and the Zionist troops. The clashes spread to Hima Arnun area outside the occupied part. The enemies' warplanes and helicopters took part in the manhunt operation. The PFLP-GC support group returned fire and prevented the enemies' troops from reaching the liberated lands. It inflicted heavy losses on the Zionist soldiers.

A hero commando was martyred. The rest of the group's elements returned safely to their bases. A statement will be issued later giving further details on the operation and a biographical note about the martyr.

Concluding his statement, the military spokesman said: We pledge to our hero martyr Abu-Hani and our hero martyrs inside and outside Palestine that we, along with the national and Islamic resistance in Lebanon, will continue to proceed along the road which they paved with their bodies. We reaffirm that our guns will remain brandished until the Oslo agreement is toppled and Palestine and all Arab territories are liberated.

This is a revolution until the liberation of man and land.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

PA Official on Controversy Over Female Prisoners

TA0210164895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, the Palestinian Authority [PA] official in charge of legal issues, says that the controversy over the women prisoners has given the Palestinians a sense that several governments exist in Israel. Abu-Middayn said that if President Weizman does not pardon the women prisoners, the self-rule authority would have to consider how to respond.

Delay in Releasing Women Prisoners 'Serious'

JN0210154495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Minister Samir Ghawshah has said that the Israeli side is procrastinating on the agreement which provided for the release of Palestinian women prisoners and a number of male prisoners. Dr. Ghawshah said the Israeli delay of the prisoners' release is a serious signal with regard to the Israeli side's commitment to the implementation of the agreement.

Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Negotiations Committee on Prisoners, said that contacts with the Israeli side are underway to speed up the release of prisoners.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Mubarak Delivers Speech at Signing Ceremony

NC2809184995 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1731 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement at the White House in Washington D.C. — live, in English with superimposed Arabic translation;-translated from the Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Clinton, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen: Today, we witness another significant step on the road to peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. The signing of this elaborate agreement testifies to the extent of the new spirit that has emerged in our region since the peace process started a few years ago. This new spirit reflects the commitment of the Arabs and the Israelis to a noble objective that until recently was considered a far-fetched dream. They made a historic choice between the desperate past and the emergence of a new horizon for their people. It would not have been possible to realize this dream without the courage of a group of men who are characterized by far-sightedness and who are determined to work together under extremely difficult circumstances in order to transform their visions into practical reality. We salute the courage of these leaders and congratulate the Palestinian and the Israeli people on this historic achievement. We also thank the friendly countries that stood firm in supporting the peace efforts. We would particularly like to mention the American people and their active leadership, which used all its influence to support the peace process.

My dear friends, while we celebrate this historic and auspicious event, we realize that the challenges of the peace process have not yet ended. In the coming months, we are expected to work hand-in- hand to facilitate the faithful implementation of the new agreement. This process requires much greater understanding and cooperation. The countries of the world are also required to provide material and moral support for this process.

I also remind you that our mission in establishing peace will not be finalized without similar progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. All of us should reaffirm the major objective in establishing a comprehensive and permanent peace. Those who hold the keys to progress on these two tracks are asked to do their utmost in the coming months to reach this objective. On the other hand, we should not forget that what has been accomplished on the Palestinian front does not constitute a final settlement. Nevertheless, it is an important step that will definitely make reaching the goal easier.

Finally, it is our duty to prove to all the peoples of the Middle East that the past is behind us at long last, and that a bright future has started dawning in the whole region—a future that brings us the hope of peace and security, as well as greater horizons for balanced development and prosperity. This should be the cornerstone of our vision for the new era. God willing, we will all be successful in our attempt to write this brilliant chapter in the history of the Middle East.

Paper on 'Secret' Syrian-Israeli Meetings in U.S.

JN0210170895 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite Syrian reservations about the recent Taba agreement and its abstention from joining others in celebration, AL-BILAD sources confirm that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held four working meetings with his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres in Washington. Held on the sidelines of the Taba agreement signing ceremony, the meetings were secret and strictly private.

Our sources say the meetings were intended to prod the stagnant Syrain negotiating track. They ended up with an agreement on the need to announcing a final accord on a Syrian-Israeli treaty before the end of the year. Observers expect that these meetings, which were prepared in advance, will help stimulate the Syrian track, especially in the wake of a clear, specific U.S. message to the Syrian leadership on the need for closing the file of the complicated Syrian track and embarking on negotiating the details.

'Unofficial' Envoy on Syria 'Gestures' on MIA's

TA3009125995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rumors in the Syrian capital say that Zakhariya Baumel, one of the Israeli soldiers missing in action since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub, is still alive. This was what we heard several minutes ago from one of Damascus' unofficial envoys, Professor Ibrahim Sulayman, a member of the 'Alawite community and a U.S. national who carries out sensitive missions and is close to the regime in Damascus.

An Israeli security source has warned that these statements should be viewed with suspicion. Here is Ehud Ya'ari's interview with Mr. Sulayman:

[Begin recording, in English] [Ya'ari] Professor Sulayman, you have been engaged in the past in one of the more important gestures on the Israeli-Syrian track, that is allowing Syrian Jews to choose to leave Syria. You have been also dealing in the past few years with the question of our missing soldiers, the Israeli MIA's. Can we expect some progress on this now?

[Sulayman] Well, we hope that the problem of the MIA's will be solved. I know that the congressional staff committee is working very hard through me with the Syrian Government to solve this problem. The Syrians are trying to do the very best they can to help us out.

[Ya'ari] How would you define the present position of the government in Damascus concerning a gesture on the MIA's?

[Sulayman] Well they are trying and promising us that they will do their very best to find any information about the MIA's and they will let us know. We hope that the committee will visit Syria soon to follow up.

[Ya'ari] Is there hope that any of the missing MIA's and the navigator, Captain Ron Arad, are alive?

[Sulayman] Well the rumors there are that Mr. Arad and Mr. Baumel....

[Ya'ari, interrupting] Zakhariya Baumel?

[Sulayman] Yes. Both of them are alive but this is a rumor. I cannot confirm it.

[Ya'ari] Does the Syrian Government view this issue as a byproduct to the peace process, to the negotiations, or a move that can precede a breakthrough in the negotiations?

[Sulayman] We hope that it will not be a part of the peace process. We hope that something positive about the MIA's will materialize pretty soon. I hope the peace process will be coming soon too. That peace, not the peace process, will be coming soon between Israel and Syria.

[Ya'ari] Is Mr. al-Shar', the foreign minister, going to be confronted with the issue of the MIA's on his visit to Washington here next week?

[Sulayman] Yes, he will be. The committee sent a letter of invitation to Mr. al-Shar'. I took it to the embassy and one of the items to be discussed is the Israeli MIA's and POW's. And he replied in writing that he will be very glad to discuss it with them.

[Ya'ari] How would you define what is missing now in order to get Israeli-Syrian negotiations on track again?

[Sulayman] Well, the United States must be more forceful and must play a stronger role than only like a messenger. I think the Syrians...[pauses] I believe strongly that the Syrians are ready to make peace with Israel. But there is a link missing in the chain.

[Ya'ari] Which is?

[Sulayman] The effective role of the United States. Without a strong, effective drive from the United States it will be pretty hard.

[Ya'ari] What you are implying is that the present American team probably is not doing enough, is not conducting itself in the best possible manner?

[Sulayman] Well they are doing their very best, but I think they could do a little more. Be more forceful.

[Ya'ari] Presenting their own proposals?

[Sulayman] They will have to present ideas to both sides, and strong ideas. Look, the Syrians know they will not get 100 percent of what they are asking for. Israel the same thing. So the United States must at some point take the bull by the horns and have a middle of the road compromise between the two countries.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much Prof. Sulayman. [end recording]

Peres Meets With Ministers of Oman, Tunisia, Mali

TA0210113895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Marilyn Henry and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel and Oman will establish trade relations, the two states announced yesterday in New York.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, his Omani counterpart, agreed "to support mutual cooperation in technical and economic fields, through the appointment of such representatives in each country," according to a joint statement. The two had met while both were attending the opening of the UN General Assembly.

The Israeli and Omani trade missions are likely to open early next year, an Israeli diplomatic source said.

Oman and its five Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) allies do not have formal diplomatic ties with Israel, though they agreed last year to lift the boycott of foreign firms dealing with Israel.

In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the agreement was meant to "encourage cooperation... in economic and technical fields."

The statement said the two countries are discussing joint projects in the fields of water, agriculture, medicine and telecommunications. [passage omitted]

Peres, who is due to address the UN today, also met with officials from Tunisia's Foreign Ministry. The North African state pledged to help the Palestinians build their economy and to help advance the peace process.

Tunisian officials also indicated they would continue discussions on advancing relations with Israel later this month at the Amman economic conference, the Israeli source said.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 October carries a report by Shlomo Shamir, Aluf Ben, and 'Aqiva Eldar on pages A1 and A2, adding that, following the meeting between Peres and the foreign minister of Tunisia, the two ministers took questions from reporters. "In reply to a question regarding the establishment of diplomatic ties between Israel and Tunisia, the high-ranking Tunisian statesman said: 'The time for that will come. Meanwhile, we will continue meeting and discussing important issues.' Peres added that 'such processes are slow to mature.'"

[HA'ARETZ further reports: "While in Washington, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent a thank-you letter to King Hassan

II of Morocco. They wrote that 'on this opportunity, after an important step has drawn the Palestinians and us closer together and promoted peace, we cannot forget the important role you played in bridging past differences and bringing us to a new era in the Middle East.'"

[Reporting on page 2 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 2 October, New York-based correspondent Miryam Fuchs adds: "Last night Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met in New York with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Tunisia, Oman, and Mali." She reports that Peres and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa discussed "the killing of POW's," but "focused mainly on regional issues. They also coordinated stands in anticipation of the Amman conference due to be held in a week, and of the encounter of European and Mediterranean countries in Barcelona next month. It was agreed that Egypt would assist in promoting the regional bank issue at the Amman conference."]

Israel, Arab States, Others Initial Tourism Agreement

TA0110113795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Haim Shapiro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel, four Arab states, the Palestinian Authority, and Cyprus this weekend initialed an agreement which is to lead to the establishment of a tourism organization for the Middle East and eastern Mediterranean area.

In addition to Israel and the Palestinians, the agreement was signed by Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Greece, Turkey and the Gulf States are expected to join soon, and it is hoped that Lebanon and Syria will also become members.

Plans for the new group were drawn up at the Casablanca Conference and the final signing ceremony is to take place at the Amman Conference at the end of this month.

Representing Israel in Casablanca was Mordekhay Ben-Ari, director of international relations for the Tourism Ministry.

The organization, to be known as the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean Tourism Association, is to include both governmental and non-governmental bodies, with the actual administration in the hands of the private sector.

It is to deal with such issues as joint marketing, training of staff, and the movement of tourists between the member countries.

Algeria

Assassination of AL KHABAR Editor Reported

LD0310104195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Omar Ouartilane, a journalist from the daily AL KHABAR, was gunned down this morning at 0825 on Mohamed Guendouzi street in Belouizdad municipality in Algiers. The late Omar Ouartilane was 36 years old. He was the editor in chief of the daily AL KHABAR. [passage omitted]

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS2909111095 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 26 Sep 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Swapping the authentic political map of Algeria with a fake one!

Praise be to Allah, The head of the Junta and its defense minister, General Zeroual has announced his candidacy for the Junta plan called "Presidential elections".

General Zeroual has left this very expected "surprise" until last in order to trap some "heavy turkeys" candidates but in vain all the junta could amass was a bunch of "bony pigeons" which weighted collectively less then 5.3 percent of the total electoral votes of the last elections according to the results published in the "Official Journal of the Algerian Republic of the 04/01/1992". So the credibility of these so-called elections is not for tomorrow.

The General's announcement to be a player in a game of which he is already a referee, may have the effect of making more Algerians see that the Junta in collaboration with the Nomenklatura is in the business of staying in power as long as they can because it is very lucrative for their members. When the biggest Junta partner, France through her President admit in a public speech that: "a part of the assistance to "Algeria" goes to high official pockets!", is there a single doubt left about the credibility and respectability of such criminals? Every day that goes by while they are still there, is an increase in their overseas bank accounts and more impoverishment to Algeria!

The game of the Junta and its Nomenklatura is clear but how about other parties who maintain their participation in the Junta show even at this stage where the results are already known and it is just the precise figures who have not been "revealed" to the public yet? Some of them are unfortunately motivated by "washing up" their last electoral "humiliation" vis a vis political parties of similar grassroots and this does not exclude secret deals with the Generals in terms of drawing up a new and artificial political map of Algeria. Many people have been frustrated by the Algerian people free choice and that is why a new political map is needed be it artificial in order to make the first one forgotten or at least that what they think. In practice it may be taking a figure such as the above 5.3 percent and magnify it to a figure approaching 100 percent in which each of the parties will be allocated a part. Then party X or Y will come and pretend to represent this or that part of the Algerian people and the previous legitimacy is void!

In the last FREE [published in caps] elections of December 1992, more than sixty parties entered the electoral competition. The Algerian people have show their political maturity by selecting just a handful of representative political parties. The 1992 results will remain the only real political map reference as long as that country is deprived from a leadership which can "talk in the name of the Algerian people" without the slightest doubt about the credibility of its accession to power.

Meantime the economy, defense, social, culture of Algeria will continue to regress and in the best to stagnate as long as the right "political key" which is " a global and just solution that will extract the crisis from its roots", is not used and as long as the Junta persist in "forcing" the wrong "key" down the Algerian people's "throat".

The French double standard in relating the Algerian conflict!

A book which in the form of a register of testimonies concerning the military regime human rights abuse has been banned in France by a decree from the French interior ministry.

The book whose title is "White book on the repression in Algeria" was published in Switzerland by the "Comite algerien des militants libre de la dignite humaine et des droits de l'Homme" is full of detailed testimonies of abuses that took place between 1991 and 1994. The motive given by the French interior ministry is that the book contains "a call for hatred"!

So, how is the Algeria conflict related by the OFFICIAL [published in caps] French media? Let us concentrate on the press through the very OFFICIAL [published in caps] French News Agency AFP for example. Following are some recent AFP's "wires" about Algeria with added comments in between brackets: 17 September: "The Algerian president, Liamine Zeroual has maintain the suspense concerning he candidacy this week end and has stated that the Islamic groups violence constitute "an empty threat only", 24 hours after the massacre of 15 civilians, slaughtered in their village. (How many people will read this and how many journalists will take it as a source for his/her articles without making the following connections or conclusions: 1) General Zeroual is the Algerian president, he must be a legitimate president of all Algerians. 2)Islamic groups violence. Violence against civilians, attacked in their own place (villages) with a very violent violence :slaughtered) the AFP "wire" continues: "an estimated of fifty men, armed with Kalachnikov, hunting rifles, pistols and knifes have assaulted the isolated village in the mountain which is the centre of a feared islamists maquis. Two of the four CHILDREN [published in caps] slaughtered were less than six years of age" (The above kind of people will also make the connections:(if this crime has taken place then) the fifty people were not the Junta army since they were equipped with knifes and hunting rifles and also this remote village is in the middle of an islamist maquis, can you picture that? These islamists are children slaughterer so they have nothing to do with islam or is Islam "barbaric" to that point? Islam is strongly against this kind of barbaric acts and all islamists know it!

The AFP of course states it source, "EL WATAN" which is a newspaper known for its anti-ISLAM and anti-Islamic positions, but the way this wire is written elevates the source to a saint.

The AFP also does not hesitate to add a small but important detail here and there that has the effect of uplifting the credibility of the story. Such details will be to say for example at the end of a story which is exclusively related from the Junta sources (APS, newspapers), that "many military vehicles were seen in this operation which seems to have been the biggest according to "our AFP reporter in Algiers". This can be very misleading into making people think the story is a "scoop" from the AFP reporter who was in place and has follow the whole operation. It is as if after a story one add "and the weather was beautiful as seen by our reporter". Did the reporter noticed the beautiful weather from Saint George hotel balcony or was is present in the story? Knowing that the Junta secret police does not hesitate to try to "buy" French policemen working in a given cases, it is not hard to imagine what they can do to a reporter working for AFP.

In conclusion, one will never find in an AFP "wire" a small detail that may suggest that those fighting the Junta are fighting for a just cause and that they are bound to Islamic teachings which forbids categorically the type of crimes widely spread in their "wires". Nothing in those "wires" can suggest that those fighting the Junta may be decent people or even sympathetic but one find plenty of details not only suggesting but with a "persistence of proving" to the readers that those fighting the Junta are "terrorist", "Criminals whose best hobby is to cut children 's throats", "coward who take innocent families hostage when the brave "Algerian army" troops encircle them".etc. In this kind of suggestive description, the devil himself will probably look virtuous comparatively!

This AFP painting of the Algerian conflict did not change colore since the coup d'etat of January 1992 and even before.

It is also important to note that those fighting the Junta troops militarily are MUJAHEDEEN [published in caps] despite the tarnishing of this noble word by some Media for some well known reasons and also despite some reticence from some brothers and sisters who, because of the above, would rather avoid using this terminology. The problem in trying to show what one thinks the other would find beautiful, is that it is hard to draw the line between "presenting a good cause as it is" and "being deceiver and lying to suit the eyes of those who do not believe in it", may Allah protect us! A Mujaheed is the one fighting within the limits of the Islamic boundaries without knowingly transgressing them. Outside this definition, a fighter can be anything else including a disguised Junta secret police (La S.M) agent.

So returning to the banned book about the Junta torture, one may ask that, if this book is a call for hatred against the military regime, what can one say about the French official painting of the Algerian conflict? A call for love for those who oppose the Junta dictatorship? Banning such torture testimonies is as if saying to those under torture: do not scream loudly, your may disturb the shapes and colours of the official French painting of the Algerian conflict and this may chock some of our citizens who after reading our news usually say Amen!

More and more Algerians are asking if France will ever be neutral in the Algerian conflict ?

In the theatre tonight!

"The Enlightenment" would first like to apologise to some of its readers who may find that there is no need in talking over and over again about what the Junta calls the "Presidential elections" since it is only a show. "The Enlightenment" agrees and it is why it has called this section "In the theatre, tonight", hoping to make it a bit pleasant for the readers. "The Enlightenment" however think that these "elections" will also have the effect of waking up a supplementary section of the Algerian people which may still have some doubt about the Junta and moreover it is convinced that these "elections" will be the grave of the regime, Insha Allah.

Last minute news: — General Zeroual wants to use president Chirac for his election campaign!

It is official that General Zeroual have officially solicited from the French President Chirac a meeting in New York during the UN session. At the time of typing these lines, the French authorities have not yet given their approval yet but have let the news "slip" to the Media. This humiliating and yet probably "involuntary leak" was "swallowed" by the head of the Junta who has timed his "unusual visit" for just two weeks before his elections to show that he has the status of a real "President of Algeria" while his light weight opponents will be seen with a status of a tribe chief during their campaign.

Some observers seen in this initiative which comes after a series of secret trips to Paris by some Junta generals, the need to General Zeroual to defend in person his group inside the Junta hierarchy in a dispute which referee seems to be in Paris.

Other observers relate it to explications that General Zeroual wants to give Mr Chirac concerning an alleged involvement of the Junta secret services in the recent bomb attacks in France which the French government have apparently find a solid direction which goes to some services inside the Junta secret services.

News of Jihad and Mujahedeen

"we don't like to "beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to "grab" the right of the people to freely choose. " (Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ali Belhadj in " Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers"). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992)

El Biar: Three Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a high officer in the Junta army having the rank of General. The Mujahedeen have fired at the General when he was in his way to the Junta Defense ministry. The operation took place in the district of Scala. An ambulance was rushed to the place and took the General who was severely wounded, the Mujahedeen retreated safely.

Boudouaou: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a patrol of the Junta "Red Berets" and have used explosives. Four Junta soldiers were killed and five seriously wounded.

Mouzaia: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta gendarmes patrol. Four Junta gendarmes were killed and the rest run away. Three Kalashnikovs, one seminov and a telecommunication system were collected.

Ouled Yaich: The Mujahedeen have attacked a group of Junta armed militia. Three were killed and their weapons and documents collected.

Sour El Ghazlan: The Mujahedeen have attacked a patrol of Junta policemen. Three were killed, a kalashnikov and a Berreta automatic pistol were collected.

Cite Faize: The Mujahedeen have blown up a vehicle of the Junta "special force" nicknamed "Lynda" instead of "Ninja". Three Junta soldiers were killed. In another operation two Junta armed militia were killed.

Dellys: The Mujahedeen have shot two Junta policemen and collected their weapons.

Casbah: Despite the campaign of "disinformation" launched by the Junta Media about this symbol of resistance, the Casbah is still "impenetrable" and under the control of the Mujahedeen. Many operation have taken place lately, amongst them: - 3 separate operations resulting in the elimination of four Junta soldiers. - In another operation, the Mujahedeen shot five Junta soldiers.

Boufarik: Five Junta armed militia were killed and five wounded in the town of Boufarik near the Christian cemetery. An important quantity of weapons and ammunition were collected. In another operation, the Mujahedeen shot three Junta policemen and collected two Kalashnikovs, one Berretta and a telecommunication equipment. Batna: Intense battles have been reported to have taken place in the region of Batna. Preliminary reports talk about more then twenty Junta soldiers (Red Berets) were killed. The Mujahedeen have collected an important quantity of weapon and ammunition of different types.

El Harrach: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta police patrol. Three were killed and three others were wounded. In another operation, the Mujahedeen have destroyed a Junta military transport vehicle belonging to the "Red berets", using explosives. The exact number of casualties in the Junta ranks is not known yet.

Beni Mered: Four Junta armed militia were killed when a bomb exploded in their barracks.

Bourouba: It has been notice that the Junta convoys do not go by this town any more due to previous "bad" experiences where many Junta vehicles have been destroyed by explosives in this town under the control of the Mujahedeen. (In few days the Junta propaganda may announce something about this town as they did for the casbah!).

Egypt

Committee Explains Position on Taba Agreement

NC0210164895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1535 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Committee for Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security has praised the prominent role President Husni Mubarak played in supporting Palestinian rights, preparing for the comprehensive settlement march on all tracks, and coordinating among the various parties, in addition to his continuous role in overcoming the obstacles before the negotiations.

The committee clarified that all parties concerned in the peaceful settlement process agreed on this prominent role. At the same time, they affirmed that Egypt, which has always played a vanguard role in war and peace and has always believed that its peace and security are linked to the peace and security of the region, must continue its efforts along the road to a comprehensive settlement on all tracks until a comprehensive and just peace is established in the whole region.

This occurred in the meeting the Consultative Council's Committee for Arab Affairs held under the chairmanship of Committee Chairman Dr. Mufid Shihab to discuss the various aspects and dimensions of the third agreement between Israel and the Palestinians regarding expanding the scope of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. The final form of this agreement was reached and initialed in Taba before it was officially signed in Washington on 28 September.

The Consultative Council's Arab Affairs Committee stressed five points in the statement it issued at the end of its meeting. They are as follows:

First, the phased agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule is considered a major step of distinguished importance along the road to peace between the Palestinians and Israel. It clearly points to the fact that the peaceful settlement process continues despite all obstacles.

It clarified that this is the third agreement on the Palestinian-Israeli track after the Washington agreement, which was signed on 13 September 1993, and the Cairo agreement, which was signed on 4 May 1994. This confirms that the settlement process is moving forward. The first agreement was linked to general principles that are implemented on a limited geographic scope, namely "Gaza-Jericho." The second agreement, the Cairo Agreement, was linked to the implementation of the first agreement. As for the third agreement, it is considered an advanced step toward expanding the scope of self-rule to include the West Bank territories. It contains new privileges given to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza and the West Bank.

Second, the phased agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule includes numerous positive points. Most important among these are the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from populated areas in the West Bank in accordance with mutual arrangements, election of a Palestinian legislative council consisting of 82 Palestinian members after the redeployment, expanding the privileges of the Palestinian National Authority to include various civilian fields even in the areas where Israel enjoys a special military status, and forming a Palestinian police force consisting of 12,000 officers and soldiers which will assume the duties of internal security in the West Bank with privileges that vary from one region to another. In addition, the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons will be released in stages despite the fact that the solution is only half finished. These points, however, support the PA's position in an unprecedented manner.

Third, the agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank is a phased agreement, not a final solution. It is, therefore, a new step added to previous ones, and further steps are needed to establish the foundations of the Palestinian state. The final-status negotiations will start in May 1996, and the final solution will be completed in 1999. Those negotiations will address the issues of refugees, Jerusalem, Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, water, security, and others. These issues are extremely complicated and they need wider Arab coordination to deal with them. The current agreement is important, but the upcoming agreements are no less important.

Fourth, the true importance of the agreement on the expansion of self-rule lies in its implementation. It is the implementation of agreements, not their texts, that matters. Consequently, good intentions must exist. There should be no tampering with the interpretation of texts, and no obstacles or problems should be placed in the way of implementation. The real value of the Taba agreement is linked to the extent of genuine commitment to the obligations and dates it contains. The success of the agreement is linked to the ability of the two directly concerned sides to stand firmly against the forces that work to undermine the peace process and want it to fail. The success of the agreement also depends on the extent of the material and political support the states of the region and the rest of the world will offer to the Palestinian Authority to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its mission.

Fifth, this important step must be completed. If the agreement to expand self-rule is a major stop, it is not the end of the road for the settlement train, which must move fast in the next stage. The signing of the agreement must serve as an impetus to move the other negotiating tracks, because genuine peace cannot be achieved except through the signing of a host of agreements that ensure collective and comprehensive security for all the states of the region.

Six Members of Muslim Brotherhood Arrested

NC0210205895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1930 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—An official security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that the agencies of the State Security Intelligence Department recently arrested six members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood after determining that they worked in Alexandria Governorate to create public hostility toward the legitimate regime in the country.

In a statement today, the source said the Alexandria prosecutor began interrogating the six members and decided to remand them for 15 days. They are: Jamal Sa'd Madi — one of the suspects now being tried by the military court — Mustafa Ibrahim Mahmud, Fahmi Muhammad 'Amir, Tal'at Fahmi Khalifah, Usamah Sa'd Mahmud, and 'Abdallah Muhammad.

The security source explained that after monitoring and followup activity the State Security Intelligence Department ascertained that those individuals still sought to continue their moves in Alexandria Governorate. Efforts of the State Security Intelligence Department had revealed that the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood is linked to the activities of the elements of violence and terrorism in al-Minya Governorate, which led to a sudden and unprecedented escalation of terrorist acts in some areas in al-Minya (five incidents in 48 hours resulting in the killing of four citizens and a policeman and the wounding of five citizens).

The source said the security services determined that those Muslim Brotherhood elements are active in Alexandria, trying to create public hostility toward the existing legitimate regime under the pretext that it is fighting Islam and Muslims. They used this as a pretext to assail the current trial of a number of the outlawed group's leaders by the military judiciary.

The source said one of the suspects being tried by the military court — Jamal Sa'd Madi — was found to have played the main role in this scheme, in cooperation with some members of the Brotherhood group. They prepared a large number of publications to agitate the public and leaflets signed by "the Muslim Brotherhood". They stored them in a number of rooms annexed to the Abu Qir Students and Parents Society and its clinic, which are under the control of Brotherhood elements in Abu Qir in Alexandria.

The security source explained that the State Security Intelligence Department uncovered the dimensions of the scheme — distributing the leaflets to worshipers in a number of mosques — those involved in it, the place where the leaflets were hidden, and the time of the scheme's implementation. After obtaining the Public Prosecution's permission, the persons involved in the scheme were arrested.

The source said that pursuant to the public prosecutor's permission to search the places where the leaflets were kept, and with the participation of a committee from the Social Affairs Department in Alexandria, a huge number of leaflets issued by the Muslim Brotherhood were seized together with other important organizational papers explaining the group's designs for the current stage. These designs include exploiting the military trial to agitate the masses, incite the public, and condemn the existing regime and its domestic and foreign policies. Also seized were huge numbers of cassettes, newsletters, Muslim Brotherhood booklets, a wooden platform ready to be moved anywhere and connected with electric wires to be used by any leader of the group as a podium to make speeches and incite the public, and receipts of huge donations for the Bosnian Muslims — this donation was not turned over to the Social Affairs Department.

The seized material also included papers indicating that this plan is linked to the arrest of Muslim Brotherhood members in Alexandria over a month ago.

Reportage Continues on Trial of 49 MB Members

'Dangerous' Documents Seized

NC2909185095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 21 September publishes an approximately 3,500-word report on page 13 on the "serious secrets" disclosed by the documents seized in possession of the 49 Muslim Brotherhood [MB] defendants being tried before a military court. The report notes that the most "dangerous" documents were seized in the home of Engineer Muhammad Khayrat al-Shatir, owner and manager of the International Company For Development and Advanced Systems (Salsabil), which included some "research papers." The papers analyze the "trends for the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the Sunni Arab world" and relations among "terrorist groups."

One of the papers views the role of a "World Islamic Movement, which is under the control and supervision of Iran and which is led in Sudan by Hasan al-Turabi." The movement is an "embodiment of the Ayatollah Khomeyni's primary vision of a world Islamic revolution that unites Sunni and Shiite Muslims in their war against the Great Satan." Toward that end, the document notes that bases have been set up in Sudan, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, where "Islamists" receive advanced military and terrorist training at the hands of international experts.

Discussing Sudan's role in support of the Islamists, the document notes that the "organized training" of Egyptian Islamists in Sudan started in early 1991, following an agreement concluded between 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and Hasan al-Turabi in April 1990 in Sudan. During that meeting, the al-Turabi-led Islamic National Front agreed to "assist the Egyptians with money, training, weapons, and the production and distribution of cassettes and other propaganda and incitement material." The document adds: "In exchange, the Arab graduates would be sent as assassination teams to kill enemies of the al-Bashir regime in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia." The document names the training camps in Sudan where Islamists received their training.

In another part, the document names Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and al-Turabi as among the "most prominent leaders of the World Islamic Movement." According to the document, 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is charged with "operations" in the United States, was chosen a member of the "supreme command" in the summer of 1992 after a meeting he held with al-Turabi in New York to "coordinate their activity." Immediately afterward, 'Abd-al-Rahman stepped up his fund-raising activity in the United States and Canada in support of the Islamic cause and transferred the money through the "Faysal Islamic Bank." The document adds that in autumn 1992, the "movement" took over a number of major Islamic financial institutions in the West, such as the "Islamic Holding Company," the "Jordanian Islamic Bank," the "Islamic Bank in Dubai," and "Faysal Islamic Bank." In early 1991, the "brothers" established "al-Taqwa Bank" in Algeria as a start toward establishing an international bank for the fundamentalists that could compete with Western financial institutions.

The newspaper adds that also found with the same defendants were several documents and papers on the coming parliamentary elections in Egypt and the recruitment of youths within the MB. One of them explains that the "individual system," according to which the coming elections will be held, will place "enormous burdens" on the MB, for it requires the availability of a large number of "popular" candidates as well as "huge financial resources" to cover the candidates' contacts and campaigning. Other papers found discuss the MB's activity in universities and influential institutions.

The newspaper adds that in the house of the first defendant Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, secretary general of the Doctors Syndicate; several papers were found, including a handwritten paper on the MB Guidance Bureau's meeting on 25 March 1994. The document lists the agenda of the meeting and recommendations related to the MB's activities in Arab countries. Other documents discuss the MB Guidance Bureau's decisions on Yemen, Sudan, Syria, the Gulf, Central Asia, Kuwait, the Kurds, and Palestine. Another document discusses the bureau's recommendations issued at the meeting on 1 April 1994. In the recommendations, the bureau instructs "countries" to collect 10 percent of members' income for the MB's "fund" for Algeria and Tunisia. In addition, 0.5 percent of members' income should be collected to serve the "jihad in Palestine." Other papers found at the defendant's home discuss the bylaws, budget, and political program of the MB; the role of members in "disaster-stricken" areas, the need to "establish relations between the MB and Western countries," and proposals for a merger between the MB and the Labor Party during the coming elections.

Second Session Held

NC3009171895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1505 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court held its second session at noon today to hear the case on the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB], involving 49 defendants, one of whom is at large in the United States.

The court room was very crowded because 309 lawyers attended the session, including four lawyers who came from Britain to attend the sessions. The session was also attended by many journalists from Arab and foreign news agencies as well as the families of the defendants.

At the beginning of the session, the lawyer called on the jailed defendants—there are 26 of them—and the released defendants—there are 22 of them—to make known their presence in the court room. Only one defendant, number 11, Jamal Sa'd Madi, was not present, but the defense said that he had been arrested yesterday and is currently at the police station in Sidi Jabir in Alexandria. This is why he was unable to attend the session.

The president of the court also confirmed the presence of defendant number 48, Mahmud al-Sa'id Hasan al-Dib, who did not attend the previous session. He told the court that no one had told him that he should attend.

The defense asked that the hearing be postponed until the Administrative Law Court issues its verdict on 3 October regarding the propriety of referring this case to the military courts.

The defense also asked that all the defendants be released and that copies be made of the results of elections that a number of defendants ran in, either in the local councils or the professional unions.

In addition, the defense wants the video cassettes and computer discs that the prosecution said it found with the defendants included in the evidence relating to the case.

The court decided to defer these matters until the session on Saturday, 14 October, and to include the video cassettes and voice recordings as part of the evidence on the case. In addition, the court agreed to review the contents of these tapes and compare the voice prints of the defendants with those on the tapes.

The court also decided to summon the witnesses to the next session and to keep in prison only those defendants who are currently being held in this case.

'Unprecedented' Crowd at Trial

NC3009162695 Paris AFP in English
1449 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Huckstep, Egypt, Sept 30 (AFP) — An unprecedented crowd packed a military court on Saturday [30 September] in support of 49 members of the Moslem Brotherhood on trial for underground activities.

More than 800 people, including 309 lawyers as well as representatives from professional unions, the Sunni Islam authority al-Azhar, human rights groups and relatives of the accused came to back the Brothers.

The judges also allowed the public to observe the proceedings, an unusual move for the military court in the Huckstep army base just north of Cairo.

The 49 Brotherhood members, who include several union figures, former MPs and an al-Azhar official, have been charged with "directing an illegal organization aiming to impede the rule of law and constitution."

But controversy has focused on President Husni Mubarak's decision to put them before a military tribunal which usually considers cases connected to Moslem militant unrest, even though none of the 49 are accused of planning "terrorism" or "violence."

Four British barristers, including former MP John Platts-Mills, who volunteered to help the defense team, also attended Saturday's session, thanking the court for allowing them to observe.

The defense team includes almost 60 members from the entire political spectrum, including leftists and three Christian lawyers.

They presented as evidence statements by Mubarak saying he would not implement emergency laws in effect since 1981, which allow military trials of civilians, except in cases of "terrorism."

They also submitted a speech by Brotherhood leader Ma'mun al-Hudaybi before parliament in 1994 in which he supported a third term for Mubarak as president as evidence the group was not working against the state.

The defense asked the court to delay proceedings until after an appeals court rules on Tuesday on a suit to reverse Mubarak's order for a military trial.

The court set an October 14 date to continue the trial, which began on September 16.

Mubarak accused the Moslem Brotherhood in 1994 of "being behind" attacks by Islamic militants in Egypt. A police crackdown on the group followed, ending almost 20 years of state tolerance of the group's activities.

The Brotherhood, officially banned since 1954, says the arrests of dozens of its members aims to sabotage its chances in parliamentary elections set for November.

The group's London spokesman, Kamal al-Halabawi, denied that the Brotherhood backed militant violence, saying it actually had saved Egypt from becoming another Algeria, the Arab daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported on Saturday.

Brotherhood leaders "regulate the activity of the group's youth and forbid them to resort to violence or destruction so that the situation does not reach a crisis as it has in Afghanistan and Algeria," al-Halabawi said.

Mubarak had put the 49 members before military judges "to get a judgement they couldn't have received in civilian courts," he said.

In a letter to Mubarak on Friday, the New York-based Human Rights Watch urged him "to suspend immediately the practice of trying civilians in military courts."

Meanwhile, police in Alexandria said they arrested six Brotherhood members, including one of the 49 accused from the Huckstep trial.

Jamal Sa'd Madi was one of 23 accused not being held in custody during the trial and the defense told the court he was absent from Saturday's session because he had been arrested "without charge."

The six were arrested in possession of documents and video cassettes concerning the Brotherhood's "secret organization."

Two Killed, 5 Wounded in al-Minya

NC3009124195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1209 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—An assistant police officer and a citizen were killed and five policemen were wounded in Upper Egypt this morning when unidentified individuals fired shots at a car belonging to the Mallawi Police Station's detective unit chief in al-Minya, a responsible security source in Cairo said.

The source added that unidentified people fired shots at the car this morning as the detective unit chief, leading a secret police force, was on his way to provide security for the al-Halajah cattle market in Mallawi. He said the incident resulted in the death of assistant police officer 'Ali 'Abduh of the Mallawi police station and citizen Mustafa Muhammad 'Abd-al-Malik, a driver at the Mallawi City Council.

The source added that secret policeman Anwar Sadiq 'Ali of the Mallawi Police Station in al-Minya, secret policeman Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abd-al-Rahman, policeman Nasir Mahrus Muhsib, Sergeant Major Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir, and Sergeant Jum'ah 'Amr al-Shinnawi were wounded. They were taken to hospital for treatment while the criminal laboratory experts went to check the scene.

Al-Minya Military Commander, 'Terrorists' Seized

NC3009163595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1534 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—State Security detectives arrested 13 terrorists this morning, including leading terrorist Jamal Muhammad Hanafi, alias Jamal al-Dawalibi, who took over as leader of the terrorists' military wing in al-Minya and Bani Suwayf Governorates after the death of his predecessor Hasan Taha.

An Interior Ministry security source announced that as part of the security forces' continued efforts to tighten the noose on terrorist leaders, State Security agencies have conducted a nonstop surveillance and infiltration operation against the terrorist organizations. They obtained information that leading terrorist Jamal Muhammad Hanafi, alias Jamal al-Dawalibi, had assumed command of the military wing in al-Minya and Bani Suwayf Governorates, succeeding Hasan Taha 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, who was recently killed. They established that Hanafi frequently moved to new hideouts in al-Minya, Bani Suwayf, and Cairo. He used tight security measures to ensure his safety, including the use of secret tunnels, concealed living rooms, and escape routes.

The State Security Detectives apparatus succeeded in locating all these hideouts, which were scattered over several governorates. After obtaining legal warrants, simultaneous raids were carried out, as a result of which Hanafi and three of his aides were arrested in Cairo and nine other aides were arrested in al-Minya.

Investigations conducted by the State Security Detectives apparatus shows that the terrorist leader had received instructions from leading terrorists abroad to escalate attacks in various parts of al-Minya, including armed robberies and assassinations, in order to spread chaos and panic among the citizens and undermine the province's security. [passage omitted]

Police Arrest 47 Islamists in al-Minya

NC0110193895 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Egypt, a security source said today that police forces have arrested 47 members of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic group] in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, 250 km from Cairo.

The arrest follows a series of attacks by the group in the area, which resulted in the deaths of three policemen and wounded seven others. The police have extended the curfew imposed on Mallawi two days ago.

Minister: 'Abd-Al-Rahman Verdict 'Expected'

NC0310085895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0805 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, 3 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Justice Minister Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr, commenting on the U.S. jurors' decision to convict Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, has stated that this verdict was expected, since the accusation was proven.

In a statement carried by the London-based Arabic language paper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM, Sayf-al-Nasr added that this conviction proves that the law is everyone's master. [passage omitted]

Prison Official Denies Prisoners' Torture

NC2909154695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
21 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Nabil Siyam, first assistant interior minister and head of the Prisons

Administration, has stated that the Interior Ministry will soon release further groups of repentant prisoners who have renounced terrorist thinking. He noted that religious convoys of ulema are educating the misled youths inside the prison, adding that these convoys have made considerable success. He added that for the first time, beginning 6 October, criminal prisoners will be pardoned after serving half their terms.

In press remarks he made yesterday, Maj. Gen. Siyam denied reports on the death of detainees at the al-Wadi al-Jadid prison from torture. He stressed that they died of natural causes because many of them refused to eat prison food, claiming it is prohibited by religion. He added that none of the relatives of the detainees or defendants remanded in connection with outstanding cases had filed a complaint.

Further on Prisoners

NC0210154695 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 28 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Muna al-Nahhas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Egyptian Organisation for Human rights (EOHR), in its latest report on prison conditions, claimed that prisoners' human rights are continually violated, with physical and psychological abuse a common occurrence. The report also registered an increase in the number of inmate deaths, particularly at al-Wadi al-Jadid prison, which it attributed to both torture and the lack of medical care.

But the EOHR's report was described as "sheer lies" by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. Inaugurating a sports club at Tura Prison, south of Cairo, last Thursday, al-Alfi said: "The reports published by human rights organisations about prison conditions are sheer lies and fabrications, have no basis in truth and are simply aimed at tarnishing Egypt's image."

Prisoners, al-Alfi asserted, are provided with medical care, as well as cultural, educational and sports facilities. "The best proof of this is that more than 120 prisoners obtained the secondary school certificate this year," he said.

Maj. Gen. Nabil Siyam, head of the Prison's Department, also denied that deaths at al-Wadi al-Jadid were a result of torture. He blamed the deaths on some inmates' refusal to eat prison food. The prisoners had died, he said, because they had believed it was sinful to eat food provided by the government.

He also claimed that prison overcrowding had been alleviated by the building of new prisons and the renovation of old ones over the past two years.

The EOHR'S 23-page report was released by the organisation's secretary-general Nijad al-Bura'i at a news conference last week. It included the results of investigations conducted by the organisation's lawyers who paid 71 visit to 15 prisons outside Cairo, and also testimony provided by prisoners and their families.

The report gave examples of what it called "the physical and psychological torture which has become a daily routine, the deteriorating living conditions and the lack of medical care." As a result, the report stated, "Thirteen deaths have occurred in al-Wadi al-Jadid prison alone, since it was opened in February 1995."

Moving prisoners to remote areas such as al-Wadi al-Jadid, 620 km southwest of Cairo, was described as a new form of torture in itself. Last February, the report said, 1,500 detainees were moved from Tura and Abu Za'bal prisons to al-Wadi al-Jadid, raising the number of detainees now held there to 3,000. Meanwhile, 1,000 others were moved to Wadi al-Natrun prison along the Cairo- Alexandria highway.

"The purpose of moving prisoners to remote areas is to promote their sense of isolation from society," al-Bura'i said. "The long distance discourages relatives from visiting them."

The report claimed other violations of prisoners' rights. "Detainees are denied the right to contact the families and lawyers. Poor living conditions and the lack of medical care are used as punitive tools," the report said. An appendix listed the names of 288 detained students, said to have been prevented from taking their examinations, and also the names of 60 prisoners allegedly injured as a result of collective punishment at al-Aqrab Prison in Tura.

Qasim Disappearance Prompts Opposition Unity Call

MM0210110695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Egyptian Jihad Group Urges Islamic Movement To Unite Their Ranks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — It seems that the disappearance of Engineer Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, spokesman for the Islamic Group who is also known as Abu-Talal al-Qasimi, whom Croatian authorities arrested on 13 September, will help to unite religious organizations opposed to the Egyptian Government.

The Jihad group, led by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, who lives in Switzerland, has urged Islamic movements "to unite their ranks to confront the onslaught on Islamic preachers."

AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement entitled "Bigger Conspiracy from Croatia" and signed by the "Information Office of the Jihad Group in Egypt." The statement accused several quarters of involvement in "abducting" al-Qasimi. The statement said that "the finger of accusation as regards who has committed the crime points at the Israeli Mossad, which is active in Denmark, and at the United States, Denmark, and Croatia."

The statement pointed out that the Croatian Government is likely to have handed over Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim to Egypt and that Egypt chose not to announce anything about the matter in order not to embarrass Croatia. Or that Zagreb may have killed him, or maybe he is still held there. The statement added: "It is unreasonable to suggest that Abu-Talal could have reached Bosnia without any of the brother mujahidin there announcing his arrival, especially as his wife and children are awaiting his return."

The statement urged Islamic movements to unite their ranks and said that "the forces of evil have joined forces against us from every direction. If Croatia has committed this ugly crime, other states and governments have done the same in the past." The statement listed a number of states that had handed over members of religious organizations to the Egyptian Government. [passage omitted]

Action Group Denies Threats, Secretiveness

NC0210175395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] The London-based opposition Egyptian Action Group [EAG] has declared that it has legitimate and specific objectives that faithfully express the concerns of a large segment of the Egyptian people. In a faxed statement, it denied press reports claiming that it is a clandestine group that issues threats against parties inside Egypt and abroad.

The statement added: "It is regrettable that the security services, whose pronouncements on the EAG have been leaked to some media, try to portray the EAG in the same light as they have consistently done with other opposition groups that seek to expose the security forces' excesses."

The EAG launched a fierce attack on the security services, saying that they have prepared reports full of lies about it. The reports were written by a security delegation that traveled secretly to the British capital to investigate the group soon after it issued its first series of statements.

The statement declared that the EAG still hopes the security departments will carry out their appropriate role of protecting ideas [as published] instead of devoting themselves to illusory battles that sap the country's resources. Concerning the threats that the EAG was rumored to have made against some Egyptian parties, the statement said that if the threats are real, then they must have been made by the security services themselves.

The EAG concluded its statement by declaring that it is not operating in a vacuum but has established a dialogue with hundreds of politicians, parliamentarians, and official institutions in Europe and the United States. This dialogue, it said, has enhanced public confidence in its program, methods, and policies.

The EAG said it is willing to meet with any government official.

Noting that it is not merely a new political faction on the national scene, the EAG declared that it wants to promote stability in Egypt.

Minister Departs for IMF, World Bank Meeting

NC0210155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, has announced that the IMF's and World Bank's annual meeting, which will begin in Washington on Thursday [5 October], will discuss debt and loan problems facing developing countries.

In a statement before departing Cairo for the United States via London today, al-Janzuri said that the meeting will also review reports on recent IMF and World Bank activities.

Dr. al-Janzuri will chair the Egyptian delegation to the meeting. The delegation also includes Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector; Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state at the Prime Minister's Office for international cooperation; and Isma'il Hasan, governor of the Central Bank.

The Egyptian delegation will hold talks on the sidelines of the main meeting with IMF officials pertaining to future cooperation and the requirements of the economic reform program.

Sudan

Opposition Figure on 'Abd-al-Rahman's Conviction

NC0210164595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad al- Mu'tasim, the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party's [DUP] information official in Cairo, stated today that the conviction of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and several others in the bombing of New York's World Trade Center proves that the al-Turabi-al-Bashir government was involved in the incident. He said this proves that this government exports terrorism and sedition to all countries.

Al-Mu'tasim told MENA that the decision of a U.S. court to convict 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and four Sudanese nationals proves their direct link with the incident via the Sudanese UN mission. He added that the bombing might have been coordinated between the Sudanese mission and other diplomats who are followers of al-Turabi, namely Siraj Yusuf and Ahmad Yusuf Muhammad. The four convicted Sudanese are Tariq Muhammad al-Hasan, 'Abd-al-Ghani Fadl, Amir Abu-Zayd, and Faris Khalafallah.

Al-Mu'tasim said that terrorist acts in the United States, France, Japan, and other capitals are a direct result of the residence permits given by those countries to wanted terrorists. He noted that President Husni Mubarak has warned of the danger to international security and stability involved in allowing such groups to reside in those countries.

Al-Mu'tasim pointed out that the Sudanese regime panicked when it learned that its followers in the United States had been convicted. They had earlier maintained that they were not involved in the bombing and believed they could escape punishment.

He added that the Sudanese opposition, which has consistently exposed this dangerous regime to the world, will reveal in the next few days a lot of information about its attempts to provoke sedition in Arab and African countries.

The DUP information official remarked that the conviction of al- Turabi's followers in the United States proves that al-Turabi leads an international organization that seeks to provoke disturbances everywhere. Noting that the case showed that the planning, training, and financing of the New York bombing originated in Sudan, he said the court conviction thus links Sudan firmly to terrorism.

He added that al-Turabi's ideology is identical to that of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, noting that Sudan facilitated the latter's departure for the United States via Sudanese territory in 1991. He added that the Sudanese diplomatic mission in the United States, particularly the lawyer Ahmad Sulayman, former Sudanese representative at the United Nations, remained in close touch with 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Al-Mu'tasim said one cannot forget that Rached Ghannouchi and Usamah Bin-Ladin were provided with Sudanese passports to implement al-Turabi's international plan.

He said the issue no longer concerns the Sudanese people and the neighboring countries alone but the whole world, adding all countries and international organizations must cooperate to excise this cancer. He called for a formal boycott of the Sudanese regime to rid the country of that evil and restore security to the region.

Al-Mu'tasim noted that while the world condemns the Khartoum regime, the Sudanese people's revolution is continuing for the sake of salvation and freedom.

Foreign Minister Notes 'Successful' China Visit

EA3009202195 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, the foreign minister, has described the talks between China and Sudan as successful. He said they centered on the strengthening of bilateral relations. The consolidation of economic cooperation was also stressed.

During the visit, a number of agreements were signed, like the twin-city agreement between Khartoum and (?Yunan) and the agreement on the friendship between the Chinese and Sudanese people. He said the visit was an opportunity for political cooperation and understanding about the horizons of peace and international cooperation.

President Visits Hanoi, Denounces Imperialism

EA3009141395 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has arrived in Hanoi on a three-day official visit to Vietnam during which he will discuss political and economic relations between the countries and ways of further strengthening and developing them,

At the start of his visit, he met the Vietnamese president, Le Duc Anh. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and develop them.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir stressed the necessity of coordination against the imperialist onslaught on both countries. He called for bilateral relations to be developed. His Excellency gave a briefing on Sudan's policies and the serious efforts underway to solve the problem of the south of the homeland.

The Vietnamese president stressed the importance of cooperation and developing relations between the two countries in various fields and said he thought the Sudanese initiative to hold the visit would help this. He also gave a briefing on the situation in his country following the Vietnamese war and the intensive efforts, which were made to overcome the effects of that destructive war.

Joint Economic, Technical Agreement Signed

EA0210201795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan and Vietnam have signed a bilateral agreement for economic and technical cooperation. Mr. Abdullah Hasan Ahmad, the finance minister, met his Vietnamese counterpart in Hanoi and discussed with him the possibility of exchanging commodities and experts [as heard] between the countries. He briefed his counterpart on the economic situation and Sudan's relations with the IMF, as well as the economic reform programs adopted by the revolution. He highlighted the country's huge resources in the fields of agriculture, animal health, minerals, and other products.

For his part, the Vietnamese minister stressed the need to strengthen economic relations between the countries, pointing out the similarities between the economic aspects of Vietnam and Sudan.

Opposition Welcomes Egypt Hosting Conference

NC0310101595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Salam in London]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese opposition in London yesterday welcomed Egypt's decision to host the second conference by the Sudanese opposition, adding that Egypt's approval opens a new chapter in relations between Egyptians and Sudanese.

Mubarak al-Mahdi, secretary general of the Sudanese Democratic National Group, has told AL-AHRAM in London that Egypt's decision to host the meeting of the group's Higher Command Council proves that the ties between Egyptians and Sudanese and between the Egyptian Government and the Sudanese people are marked by the greatest degrees of amity and understanding. He added that this also proves that the deterioration in bilateral relations is the fault of the ruling regime in Khartoum and its hostile actions against its neighbors.

Al-Mahdi noted that no date has been set for the meeting and that consultations are under way to set a date for the arrival in Cairo of the 11 command members, who live in several countries.

Faruq Abu-'Isa, spokesman for the group and secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Union, has stated that Egypt's hosting of the meetings of the group constitutes a natural and vivid expression of the longstanding ties between our people in the north and the south and is an extension of Egypt's hosting of the Sudanese opposition movement in the past.

[A 400-word report on page 1 of the same paper quotes Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, saying: "The Sudanese opposition factions, led by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, and including for the first time John Garang, will meet in Cairo in the days to come to put an end to the terrorist regime in Sudan."]

Opposition Group Claims Battlefield Successes

EA3009130995 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Daniel Kodi, a leader in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], has stated that conditions are now calm on the Nimule front [Equatoria region, southern Sudan]. The National Islamic Front's forces made an attempt to advance to Jonglei [southwestern Sudan, Upper Nile region]. The SPLM's forces repulsed them. He said the movement's forces are now besieging Kaia town [Equatoria region] and are being deployed in the Kaia Mountains that overlook the town. He added that forces of the People's Movement captured (Karungu Abdullah) area, south Kaduqli [Kordofan, central Sudan] which, he said, constitutes a [word indistinct] vital position. The movement's forces, commanded by Commander Muhammad (Jeglai), also managed to halt the movement of forces of the (?Khartoum regime), which were moving between Dilling and Kaduqli [both in Kordofan] and inflicted heavy losses on them.

On the accusations of the Southern Sudan Independence Movement against the People's Movement that it attacked its positions, Kodi said Riak Machar no longer had any positions in the south to be attacked because he lives in Nairobi and issues his statements from there. On Lam Akol, he said he has become just one individual without any supporters.

The Voice of Sudan Radio has previously stated that the Jonglei battle [word indistinct] to which 56 people from the People's Defense Forces fell victim and 94 were wounded, among them the commander of the force, Colonel 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Tayyib; his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Fadlalmawla Ibrahim Fadlalmawla; and Lieutenant Usamah al-Maqbul. [Words indistinct]

TV Signs Agreement To Broadcast on Arabsat

EA3009132095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement was signed on 28 September at the buildings of the National Television Corporation in Omdurman for the leasing of a television channel on the Arab satellite.

Mr. al-Tayyib Mustafa, director general of the national television channel, signed on behalf of the Sudanese side, and the director general of the Arab Corporation for Space Communications, Arabsat, engineer (Sa'd al-Din) on behalf of the corporation.

This agreement will enable Sudanese television programs to reach all Arab states. The agreement will also guarantee Sudanese television's participation in the second generation of Arabsat satellites, which will begin with the launch of its first satellite in the middle of next year.

The television will begin to transmit its programs via the Arab satellite after carrying out some technical work, which is expected to be completed during the next two weeks.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Middle East Peace

TA2909200895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya by Ehud Ya'ari in Washington on 28 September — recorded, in English with Hebrew subtitles]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Ya'ari] Your Excellency, I would like to thank you for taking this gesture of public diplomacy by granting this first-ever interview by any Tunisian statesman to the Israeli Television. Thank you. You used to have a resident in (Yugorta) Street No. 3 in Tunis for the past 12 years, Mr. 'Arafat. Are you going to miss him now?

[Ben Yahya] Well, let me first take this auspicious occasion to express the Tunisian Government's happiness to see today's agreement signed at the White House. It is a big achievement for peace not only for Palestinians and Israelis but for the region and the world. I think the stay of our brother Palestinians in Tunisia for 12 years meant a lot to us, because it is a commitment to help the Palestinian cause and to help them choose the path of peace. I think the Tunisian atmosphere was there to help produce this miracle of peace, as it did for the Algerians who stayed in Tunisia to do their fight for their [word indistinct] liberation. This is the Almighty's choice to have given Tunisia a chance to work for peace twice in our lifetime. May I address myself through you....

[Ya'ari, interrupting] Please.

[Ben Yahya] To the Tunisian-born Jewish community, to tell them that Tunisia the land of peace, which stood for dialogue and moderation, is playing the same role and is committed to achievement of peace, a comprehensive peace and the sooner the better, because I think time is of essence for everybody.

[Ya'ari] How do you weigh, Mr. Minister, the prospect of dangers of the peace process at the point we are standing now?

[Ben Yahya] I think the closer we get to the D-day for the final peace accord, the riskier it will become. That is an observation made out of historical experience we know about in Tunisia. And I think Secretary of State Christopher has said that the United States and the whole world community will stand beside countries which take risks for peace. Tunisia is one of them, and I think we are taking risks for a noble cause.

[Ya'ari] How would you define the Tunisian role, the Tunisian model, or the role that can be played by the Tunisian people and government in helping the parties move forward?

[Ben Yahya] Well, Tunisia is playing in earnest its role, catalystic role with the Palestinians....

[Ya'ari, interrupting] Very quietly.

[Ben Yahya] Very discreetly — that is the Tunisian way — with the Palestinians when they used to be with us. And even now in Gaza Chairman 'Arafat is visiting us from time to time, and I have been instructed to follow up the last moments of these negotiations here in Washington and in the region. I traveled under instructions from my president to help the final quarter of an hour of these last efforts for the Taba agreement.

[Ya'ari] By the way, are the PLO offices going to stay in Tunis as far as it takes?

[Ben Yahya] The Political Department is still in Tunisia. So let me say once more that the Tunisian ingredient has been instrumental, with all modesty, to be a catalystic role to bridge the gap was and still is instrumental in producing results.

[Ya'ari] How do you see Israel in th? region on the assumption that we are going to complete the road to a comprehensive peace?

[Ben Yahya] Let us first attend to the immediate business. That means finishing this unfinished symphony by working harder and more seriously on the Syrian track and on the Lebanese track, so that everybody will live in peace, in security, in progress, in democracy, in openness. A new mentality will appear out of the Middle East. Thank you very much.

[Ya'ari] I thank you very much. I hope we will see you one of these days in Israel. Thank you very much Mr. Minister.

[Ben Yahya] Thank you.

GCC Trade Committee Adopts Recommendations

*LD0110213895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1842 GMT 1 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 1 Oct (SPA) — His Excellency 'Ali Salih al-Salih, the trade minister of the State of Bahrain, chairman of the 22d meeting of the Committee for Trade Cooperation of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, said that during today's meeting the committee reached a number of recommendations that will be submitted to the upcoming summit of their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC member states.

In a media statement after the meeting, he expressed hope that the results achieved by the committee will boost the march of the GCC toward achieving the aspirations of the peoples of the GCC member states.

He said the committee adopted recommendations on retail trade, trade laws, trade register, and laws on accounting and auditing. He pointed out that an important resolution was adopted. It stipulates the study of the obstacles hampering the increase of the flow of goods between the GCC member states. Thus, the General Secretariat allowed six months for the completion of this study and the invitation to another meeting of the Trade Cooperation Committee so as to enable the adoption of the adequate recommendations to overcome these difficulties hampering the flow of goods between the GCC member states. [passage omitted]

The Omani trade minister said some states expressed reservation regarding the imported goods that are reexported, but most states approved that recommendation and we believe this is on the way to implementation, God willing.

He noted that as far as the GATT agreement was concerned, there was no problem for the GCC countries, as the majority of them had joined the agreement and the rest were on their way to join it.

On the other hand, his excellency Usama Bin-Ja'far Faqih, the [Saudi] trade minister, said in a press statement following the meeting that an important recommendation was made during the 22d meeting of the GCC Trade Cooperation Committee concerning the system for combating protectionism.

His excellency said this system acquired a great importance as the economies of the GCC countries were based on market economy and our markets were open. He added in this context that this did not mean that we allow protectionism and trading without any organization and without abiding by the fundamental rules that govern the rights of all parties. He indicated that this system will be submitted by the ministerial committee to the summit, God willing.

His excellency the trade minister explained that the committee discussed ways of facilitating the flow of goods and services between the GCC countries. [passage omitted]

The committee also reviewed the progress of current negotiations among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council as one of the principal economic groupings that represents key partners in the GCC. His excellency pointed out that these negotiations are witnessing good progress.

Trade Minister Usama Ja'far Faqih indicated that the committee confirmed its previous recommendation concerning the country of origin, stressing the necessity to display the name of the manufacturing country beside the name of the European Union.

In this respect, he also said it was recommended to adopt specific rules to regulate the reexportation of foreign goods between the GCC member states. He said: We, as developing states, have a growing industrial base, therefore the entry or the reexportation of goods between the member states must be governed by rules and regulations that protect the rights of the local industrialists. These must also conform with international rules in the framework of the World Trade Organization.

The trade minister also indicated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had offered its experience with regard to the Saudi Audit Authority, and that the member states welcomed the offer and agreed to set up a committee to examine draft rules put forward by the GCC General Secretariat while making use of Saudi experience in this area and others. [passage omitted]

The minister revealed that in two years the number of standardized specifications rose from 166 to 580 in the Gulf and said the GCC was satisfied with the efforts made in training and preparing the cadres specialized in this area. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Reported Iraqi Troop Movements Discussed

*LD0110144495 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1015 GMT 1 Oct 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers: The evils which Iraq harbors against Kuwait and the Gulf region as a whole reflect the Iraqi regime's tendency to hate anything good on earth. Thus, today's report in THE

SUNDAY TIMES that Iraq has secretly been moving its troops near the Kuwaiti border is a true reflection of such an inclination and the consecration of the deceptive and the treacherous methods used by the Baghdad regime over many years.

However, we are in the habit of not believing anything said by the rulers in Baghdad; time has shown us that their statements have always been lies. Moreover, people everywhere believe beyond any doubt that the Iraqi regime is the main threat to the security and stability of Kuwait and to the rest of the Gulf region. In particular, following the recent discovery by the chairman of the international commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Rolf Ekeus, when he affirmed that the Iraqi regime was still using deception to cover up a military regime which was running a ghastly biological program and using methods which have nothing to do with human norms or human rights.

The report in THE SUNDAY TIMES should prompt us, first and foremost, to be more vigilant about the conspiracies of aggression being hatched by the head of the Iraqi regime to be ready to face up to any eventuality. It is now apparent that the head of the Iraqi regime and his entourage are trying to use the return of tension in the region as a card to divert people's attention from the tragedies of the Iraqi people at the hands of its own hangmen.

However, the international alliance has proved to be able and effective on more than one occasion to face up to anything thrown at it by the Iraqi regime, the latest of which was in October 1994 when the Iraqi regime moved thousands of its troops and equipment near the Kuwaiti borders but backed down once it was confronted by the firm stance of the international alliance, which reminded it of its obligation under the international resolutions, including Resolution 949 which bans it from moving troops beyond latitude 32 degrees.

Nonetheless, the actions of the Iraq regime are a fresh reminder to the world to be vigilant vis-a-vis a regime which will not shy away from using anything and everything to realize its mindless and absurd aims. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime's intentions toward Kuwait and the region as a whole will not harm anyone but the Iraqi regime itself. Evil doing will always backfire, a fact which nobody can contest.

Nonetheless, the State of Kuwait, to which God gave a victory in 1991, will face up to all the conspiracies which the Iraqi regime is concocting in darkness with prudence and vigilance and will also continue, through the minister of state for cabinet affairs and the minister of planning, continue to follow closely the reports on the Iraqi regime's secret troops movement near its borders.

May God's peace, prayers, and benediction be upon you.

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah; Adviser Comments

LD0310084295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0705 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 3 Oct (KUNA) — An official Palestinian source said Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, will meet here today with King Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy places.

President 'Arafat's adviser, Nabil Abu Rudaynah, told KUNA in a telephone contact that 'Arafat, who arrived in Jeddah last night, is keen to meet with King Fahd to brief him on the results of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on expanding [Palestinian] self-rule, which was signed in Washington last week.

Abu Rudaynah added that King Fahd's talks with 'Arafat will also deal with the future of the peace process on the Palestinian track in light of the recent agreement, and the steps ensuing from it, in addition to bilateral relations and the recent developments in the region. [passage omitted]

'Arafat's adviser described Palestinian-Saudi relations in his statement to KUNA as being firm and strong, and said Saudi Arabia is the only country that fulfills its political and material commitments to the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

Abu Rudaynah said 'Arafat will leave Jeddah today for the self-rule area after his meeting with King Fahd. [passage omitted]

Peace Agreement Discussed; Israel Criticized

JN0210212195 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
30 Sep 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Peace Continues, but Israel Plants Mines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority and Israel have taken a new road to the peace process. However, it seems that for the Palestinian Authority, this road will be much more difficult than ever before. Because whenever peace becomes closer, Israel starts to play its cruel, rude tricks and gimmicks. As a matter of fact, Israel is fighting peace, not just the Palestinians. Tel Aviv will find many issues to circumvent and several reasons to delay the peace process and obstruct it. In the past, Israel used many excuses and flimsy pretexts to obstruct the peace process and procrastinate in a manner that clearly shows it does not want peace; that it does not seem to be working for it.

The Israel of yesterday is the same Israel of today; it has not changed. It is expected to practice the same methods in the coming peace phase despite the fact that the Palestinian Authority made several territorial concessions in return for a state and for the return of its citizens in exile to their homes, farms, and jobs. The Arab states spared no effort and fully supported the peace process. For example, when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia saw that the Palestinian cause was being transformed into political bargains on the Arab scene, and was being abused in almost every respect, even in personal conflicts, the Kingdom proposed a peace plan (King Fahd Project) at the Arab summit in Fes, which enjoyed Arab approval. This plan could have been an appropriate peace project aimed at preserving the Palestinian brothers' rights and preventing attempts to weaken their cause and use it for the benefit of others.

The peace process should be just and capable of meeting the legitimate demands of all states of the region and respecting all the rights of the Arab states. As his highness the foreign minister said: In the coming phase, the peace process should prove capable of resolving the outstanding issues such as the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks, and the return of Palestinians who were deported by Israeli military forces from their homes.

The Jerusalem issue will be the real test of Israel's seriousness in entering a feasible peace project that can achieve proper justice for all. Israel's continuous claims that Jerusalem is its eternal capital will not help advance the peace process; on the contrary, it will put up more obstacles and create more doubts along the path of comprehensive peace, particularly since the Arabs have clear rights in Jerusalem which should not be bargained over or encroached upon. These rights should not become political deals or concessions of any kind. Despite the fact that the peace process is under way, Israel has not made any significant initiatives but has continued to lay mines along the path of the negotiators.

King Backs Peace Accord, Comments on Jobs

LD0210175895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1705 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, believes that the importance of the agricultural sector extends to more than its mere participation in forming the gross domestic product. The custodian of the two holy mosques said that in addition to the strategic importance of increasing local foodstuffs to meet the requirements of the rising population, the development of the agricultural sector performs other important roles. [passage omitted]

This came at a meeting of the Council of Ministers that was chaired by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques this afternoon, eighth of the month of Jumada al- Awlah, 1416 AH. [2 October] at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, then dealt on some local issues of interest to the citizens and asked their royal highnesses and excellencies the ministers to continue to implement the open- door policy that aims to meet the citizens, become familiar with their affairs, and try to quickly find solutions for them in order to serve the citizens. He also directed the Council of Ministers to take care to employ Saudis, males and females, and give them priority in employment.

Within the political framework the information minister said King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz described the Palestinian-Israeli accord, which was signed on 28 September, fourth of Jumada al-Awlah 1416 AH., in Washington as being a positive step to a just and comprehensive peace, and he reaffirmed that peace is indivisible. He pointed out the necessity of reaching agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The information minister added that the custodian of the two holy mosques then dealt with the areas of tension in the world. He also renewed the stance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which calls for continued efforts and capabilities to realize peace and justice in favor of the issues threatening security and peace in the international community.

The information minister concluded by saying the Council of Ministers then discussed issues on its agenda. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports, Discusses Secret 'Troop Movements'

LD0110173195 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Oct 95 p 15

[Article by James Adams: "Saddam's Tanks Menace Kuwait"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq is secretly massing tanks and troops close to the border with Kuwait, and Pentagon officials say they cannot dismiss the possibility that Saddam Husayn is planning another invasion of the tiny state to restore the honour his army lost in its defeat in the Gulf war, writes James Adams in Washington.

The troop movements, detected by satellite, have caused intense debate within the pentagon and the American intelligence community. Some Pentagon officials would like to strike immediately against the troops to teach Saddam a lesson. Others argue the intelligence is unclear and that Saddam may simply be rotating his forces.

About 100 tanks and armoured personnel carriers have been moved south into the exclusion zone imposed by the United Nations after the Gulf war. Most movements have taken place at night in small numbers to evade American spy satellites.

The Americans have also picked up unusually high traffic in military signals, possibly indicating that generals are rehearsing their command and control procedures in preparation for an assault.

"Our problem is that Saddam remains unpredictable," said one Pentagon official. "We simply do not know if he is testing us, planning an attack on Kuwait or planning to murder more of his own people. Any action by him is madness; but then he's mad, so who knows?"

The situation is complicated by recent intelligence supplied by General Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi defector who fled to Jordan with his brother and their wives, who are Saddam's daughters. Kamil has been debriefed by American intelligence officers and has told them Saddam is planning an attack against Saudi Arabia or Kuwait.

Kamil, however, though once a member of Saddam's inner circle, is considered an unreliable witness. He could be producing a treasure trove of intelligence but has delivered little of real value. "He has told us nothing of importance, just dotted a few Is and crossed a few Ts," said one intelligence source. "It's been a real disappointment."

The most useful intelligence has come from documents Saddam handed over to the UN immediately after the defections. Saddam, apparently panicked by the flight of close family members, passed more than 48 cases of documents that spell out in detail the extent of Iraq's chemical and biological weapon programme.

These documents, which the Iraqi leader claims were hidden in a chicken coop on Kamil's farm, are proving to be a gold mine to British and American scientists.

The CIA and the State Department believe Kamil is keeping information back in the hope of retaining some credibility inside Iraq in case he makes a comeback as head of an opposition group that might orchestrate a coup against Saddam. But Kamil was held responsible for many of the atrocities committed in Saddam's name and is hated by most of the Iraqi opposition. The CIA has decided therefore not to promote him as a credible opposition figure.

One of the few pieces of useful intelligence Kamil has passed on concerns Saddam's efforts to rebuild his military with new equipment to replace the thousands of tanks, artillery pieces and vehicles destroyed during the Gulf war.

Kamil, once in charge of Iraq's military procurement programme, visited Moscow earlier this year to discuss the possibility of Russia supplying up to 4,000 new tanks as part of a multi-billion- dollar arms deal. Such a contract would represent several years' production for Russia's struggling arms industry and restore Iraq's position as the pre-eminent power in the Middle East.

Western intelligence has observed an exchange of military delegations between Baghdad and Moscow in the past month but no deal has yet been agreed and none is expected until the UN sanctions against Iraq are relaxed. "There have been lots of vodka and bearhugs but bugger-all beef," said one western intelligence source.

Stateless Arabs Group Voices Support for Saddam

JN0210194395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—The League of People With Rights [rabitat ashab al-haqq] has asserted that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is the basic guarantor of the survival of Iraq as a lofty and unified country in the face of the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary forces that are trying to undermine Iraq's will and steadfastness.

In a cable to his excellency the president, Fahd al-'Anzi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the League of People With Rights, reiterated his support for and congratulations on the nomination of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for the post of the president of Iraq, because he is the hope of Iraq and the nation. Al-'Anzi beseeched God almighty to keep Iraq victorious under the president's wise leadership.

'Aziz Comments on Peace Process, Disarmament

BR0210150595 Paris LE FIGARO in French 30 Sep 95 p 2

[Report on interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Claude Lorieux in Baghdad; date not given: "Tariq 'Aziz: 'Iraq Is Not Opposed to the Arab—Israeli Peace Process'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi deputy prime minister and for the last 12 years the artisan of Saddam Husayn's foreign policy told LE FIGARO: "The signing ceremony of the Israel-PLO agreement at the White House was a ridiculous business. President Clinton is concerned with public relations but not with politics. We have no comment to make about that. Unlike other countries, we have no reason to please the Americans or to give President Clinton a nice photo opportunity."

'Aziz, now into his fifties, is a skillful and confident battler. He stressed, however, that Baghdad is not opposed to the Arab- Israeli peace process launched in October 1991 in Madrid in the wake of the allied victory over Iraq. "We have no intention of standing in the way. That would run counter to our own interests. Take a look back. In 1988, Yasir 'Arafat announced the birth of the 'State of Palestine' and revealed his intention to conclude an agreement with the United States. The PLO leader came to see our president in Baghdad. Saddam Husayn told him: 'You must do what you feel to be in the best interests of your people. Iraq will support you.'"

[Lorieux] Do you still support his approach?

['Aziz] In 1988 we were in an ideal position. The Iran-Iraq war had ended to our advantage. We had normal relations with the United States. We supported 'Arafat's peace initiative. How could we adopt the opposite attitude now that our nation, struck by UN sanctions, needs peace? We are not kept informed about the events surrounding the negotiations, nor do we ask to be. We are watching what is happening. That is enough for us.

[Lorieux] So Iraq will not try anything to delay peace?

['Aziz] Even if we wanted to, we do not wield enough influence over 'Arafat or Syria. From time to time, an Iraqi writes an article opposing the peace process, but nothing comes of it.

[Lorieux] You could also help 'Arafat's opponents, the Hamas, the Jihad, or even Georges Habache...

['Aziz] That is stupid. Those people are not on our side and we are not on their's.

[Lorieux] A number of Arab states, especially the Gulf states, have made gestures toward Israel. Why hasn't Iraq?

['Aziz] They have done that to please the United States. The Americans are no friends of our's. We do not have to please them. Then there are the UN sanctions. You cannot keep someone in prison and then ask him at the same time to contribute to the general prosperity!

[Lorieux] Let us turn to the embargo that was placed on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Last spring you threatened you would no longer cooperate with the Special Commission for Disarmament if the Security Council did not quickly lift the embargo. Since Husayn Kamil's defection on 8 August you have, on the contrary, shown yourselves to be very keen to cooperate. Does this signal an end to your threats to stop cooperating?

['Aziz] That is indeed the case. After Husayn Kamil's defection we realized that he had deliberately concealed documents that should have been handed over to the special commission. We then told [commission leader] Rolf Ekeus that we had decided to provide all the information we could. There is nothing new about that. There is no point in us concealing information that concerns weapons programs that we abandoned years ago. We are not interested in restarting these programs.

[Lorieux] So you will not be threatening any more break in relations?

['Aziz] We know we will need time to examine the documents hidden by Husayn Kamil. We are not setting Mr. Ekeus any deadlines. However, we want these checks to go on forever either. We would ask Mr. Ekeus to forge ahead and we would ask the members of the Security Council which, unlike the United States, do not have a personal grudge against Iraq, to encourage the commission to move forward swiftly.

[Lorieux] Nobody outside of Iraq believes that Husayn Kamil hid two truckloads of documents — more than 600,000 pages of text — without Saddam Husayn's knowledge.

['Aziz] I am aware of that. But let us be logical. If we had withheld information then there is no doubt that we would have annoyed the commission and delayed the lifting of the sanctions. We want to speed up the lifting of the sanctions. That is why we recognized Kuwait and its borders. Could Husayn Kamil have hidden documents? Yes, he could. He was solely responsible for military industrialization for more than 10 years.

Does the French president know every detail about the nuclear program? Of course not. Does he know where each document and where each piece of equipment is? I do not believe he does. Husayn Kamil was very close to the president, but he was plotting against him.

[Lorieux] It was a blow to your credibility.

['Aziz] You cannot judge a nation's credibility on the basis of its relations with the Security Council. If you did that then the United States would be the least credible country in the world. The Americans have ignored hundreds of resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. A nation's credibility is measured against its bilateral relations, country to country. Thousands of French industrial workers have been active in Iraq for 20 years now. Do they believe the Iraqis to be credible?

[Lorieux] I knew many such people in Baghdad in 1990, after the invasion of Kuwait.

['Aziz] And what did they say?

[Lorieux] They said they were being held hostage, that they wanted to return to France and that they had been disappointed by the Iraqis.

['Aziz] I was referring to the 1970's and 1980's. We had very intense relations. I am convinced that the Frenchmen who were working in Iraq then will tell you that we are credible. What is more, they want to return.

[Lorieux] The French, as well as the Russians and the Chinese, were envisaging the lifting of the embargo as soon as the disarmament process was complete and once the surveillance system was fully up and running. The discovery of the "hidden" documents was a slap in the face for them and they have been forced to adopt a more discreet stance. The United States is triumphant.

['Aziz] The situation has been more or less frozen. The French position is well known. France says: 'There is a UN resolution which must be respected, and not just by Iraq but by the Security Council too.' When we recognized Kuwait's frontiers, the French ambassador to the United Nations said it was a positive move, while the U.S. representative commented negatively. I understand that France cannot ask for the embargo to be lifted, and I do not ask it to. However, this problem of Iraqi credibility you allude to will be solved. When he finishes his inspections, Rolf Ekeus can only conclude that Iraq does not possess any banned equipment.

[Lorieux] What about the biological weapons he is talking about again?

['Aziz] I would reply with two points. First, Iraq is not the only country in the region concerned by this. Iran is working on biological weapons. Israel has chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. Second, we have not used them. We explained to the United Nations the circumstances in which we could have used them during the Gulf war. The unit commanders on the ground were authorized to use them if Baghdad had been attacked with nuclear weapons and if they were unable to communicate.

[Lorieux] The real problem is that too many states find Iraq's behavior to be unpredictable and even unreasonable.

['Aziz] We had normal relations with the United States throughout the 1980's. I was received in the White House. Suddenly, at the start of the 1990's — several months before the Kuwait crisis — the Americans decided to demonize Saddam Husayn. Why? First, because George Bush, taking advantage of the weakening Soviet Union, had decided to move into this region. Iraq was an obstacle and therefore had to be demonized. Then, by acquiring certain weapons, Iraq had been able to restore the military balance between the Arabs and Israel. The Americans could never agree to that possibility.

[Lorieux] It would appear that the Iraqis, who are very attached to tradition, were less shocked by the defection of the industry minister than by that of two of Saddam Husayn's daughters, abandoning their father.

['Aziz] Iraq is not Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. Saddam Husayn is our leader, but his family is not a ruling family. Husayn Kamil left, but someone stepped in to take his place. The regime was not undermined by his defection. Of course these departures did have family connotations. The president, his wife, and his sons were saddened. But that is all.

[Lorieux] It would appear that the Baas party is being "reactivated."

['Aziz] I do not agree. The Baas party has been leading the country since 1968. Before Husayn Kamil's defection, the president replaced two of his relations who occupied posts in the Interior and Defense Ministries, with a member of the Baas party and with a general. The king of Saudi Arabia would never give those posts to anyone outside of his family. That has never been the case in Iraq, not even under the monarchy.

[Lorieux] The war ended seven years ago. You have still not normalized relations with Tehran. Why not?

['Aziz] Normalization can only be done in normal conditions. Iran still has 20,000 prisoners from the Iranian-Iraqi war!

[Lorieux] What about you?

['Aziz] One. A pilot shot down before 22 September 1980, the date when the war started. We were accused of having started hostilities. So what was this pilot doing in our airspace before 22 September? We are keeping him as proof.

[Lorieux] Is that all?

['Aziz] We are also holding 60 officers from the Iranian Army's secret services. In March 1991 they took part in an attempted revolt in the south. They are not prisoners of war, they are saboteurs.

[Lorieux] Tehran is demanding the expulsion of the Mujahidin of the People, an Iranian opposition group based in Iraq.

['Aziz] The rule of international relations is nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. We must not let the Mujahidin break that rule. However, the Iranians do not respect it. They are giving logistical support to certain groups involved in sabotage in the marshlands [to the north of Basra — LE FIGARO editor's note].

[Lorieux] America's so-called "dual containment" policy has placed Iraq and Iran in the same category.

['Aziz] It is an absurd policy. Nations are not chickens you can put in cages when they are bothering you. I have told the Americans: "You make Iraq suffer but you cannot contain it."

[Lorieux] Are you, at the request of Paris, testing out a normalization of French-Iraqi relations?

['Aziz] Unlike Francois Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac knows Iraq. However, that is not the most important thing. We also had just as good relations with France in Mitterrand's first term, and under Giscard d'Estaing and Pompidou. I met Mr. Juppe in Paris in January. France then opened a "French interests section" in Baghdad. Our foreign ministers, Messrs. al-Sahhaf and de Charette, have met at the United Nations, and that is a good sign. However, an official visit has a symbolic value. It means that you want to talk seriously. Iraq would appreciate it if an invitation were issued to our foreign minister or to myself. It is up to the French Government to decide on when. We are ready.

[Lorieux] The United States has revealed that, despite the embargo, Iraq has built 10 palaces for Saddam Husayn...

['Aziz] I don't see the point of that argument. In 1987 we held an Arab summit meeting in Baghdad. There were not enough decent hotels so we had to ask the wealthier members of our society to lend us their homes for our guests. We therefore decided to build palaces for our guests, one in each governorship. That is what we are currently doing. We are already capable of organizing small conferences in three or four provincial towns. These palaces are not Saddam's property. They belong to the state.

[Lorieux] The Americans are stressing that Iraqi citizens are hungry and that the palaces could have waited.

['Aziz] What we lack is medicine, not stone. We also have a small metallurgy industry. We have built more than just palaces. We have built bridges and, in the last two years, between 10 and 15 new universities.

[Lorieux] What does the United States want? To weaken Iraq or to bring down Saddam Husayn.

[Aziz] The Americans have said quite clearly that they want Saddam Husayn either to go or to be overthrown. Why? So that they can then take control over Iraq. They have done the same thing with other countries. They would like to do it to us. They are weakening the country to achieve their aim: the fall of Saddam Husayn's government.

Editorial Views Sanctions, Role of Gulf Countries

95LH0224A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1, 2 Jul 95

[Two-part article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "With Growing Possibilities That Blockade Against Iraq Will Be Lifted, What Is Going on in Arab Gulf and Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[1 July pp 1,3]

What is going on in Egypt and the Gulf countries, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, is so interesting that whoever cannot pick up the messages and allusions contained in the course of developments perhaps lacks the minimum degree of understanding and awareness. Or perhaps whoever cannot pick up these messages and allusions is misled by a chain of interpretations that have been made to keep him waiting for "something" until he is surprised by a dagger plunged into his heart!

In Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, people and many participants in the decisionmaking ask perplexing questions that leave them the captives of endlessly devastating anxiety, including the question: What will happen when the blockade against Iraq is lifted? America has convinced these people that "it will take care of Iraq." According to the U.S. scenario, Iraq was supposed to turn into a farm divided into three or five parts, each controlled by a dishonorable thief with no conscience who is an installed ruler by the United States and protected under the U.S. military umbrella. This is why the United States has told them, "Don't worry, Iraq is in our pockets!"

When the 30-state aggression failed to accomplish its fundamental objective, namely to invade Baghdad militarily and to install "governments of thieves," the United States turned the blockade into an alternative instrument with which to destroy Iraq through the mass starvation and murder of the people. The United States estimated that success would be achieved within three to six months of the blockade when Iraq would exhaust all its food stores and when starvation, with the subsequent "civil wars" that spare nothing, prevail, exactly as they have done in Yugoslavia and Rwanda and especially since the 30-state aggression had destroyed all the infrastructure necessary for survival.

The maximum, i.e. six months, was surpassed and the blockade went through its first year, with Iraq rising proudly on the debris of the total devastation caused by the criminal and murderous enemies of peoples and mankind. With great amazement, the world realized that the "sources of life" had been restored and repaired with purely Iraqi capabilities and that what the United States had sought, namely to ignite wars of starvation in Iraq, was not realized. Rather, with extraordinarily remarkable efforts, the Iraqi people succeeded in securing minimal food levels and other living resources. Then another year passed and the Iraqi people displayed stronger and firmer steadfastness and rallied more closely behind Leader President Saddam Husayn, their leader. Thus, the American sabotage plan began to lose its balance and its flexibility.

As a consequence, Arabs who had committed aggression against Iraq have realized that Iraq's steadfastness and its defense of its genuine principles—the principles of Arabism and Islam—have torpedoed the "guarantees" of protection the United States had offered them in return for their agreement to launch a war of annihilation against Iraq and the Iraqi people. The punishment for the annihilation of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis is obvious and known in advance, especially when the murderers continue the killing or continue to promote killing after all facts and information have been disclosed. This information and these facts are enough to make them "act rationally" and to seek a path free of foolishness and stupidity, as numerous other Arabs in the Arab Gulf and elsewhere have done.

It is the right of every people to defend themselves in numerous ways and with varied methods, especially when the threat is the threat of the annihilation of hundreds of thousands in preparation for the annihilation of millions according to well studied and organized plans.

Now that nearly five years has passed on the blockade and on the crime of the 30-state aggression, the biggest fact in the region has become crystal clear. This is the fact that Iraq has surpassed all schemes and challenges intended to destroy the mainstays of its unity and to eliminate it from the map. It is the fact that Iraq will forever follow the path of Leader Saddam Husayn and the principles of pan-Arabism and of the immortal Islam. It is the fact that despite all the U.S. slowdown and obstruction schemes, the blockade has reached the end of the road and will be lifted imminently, as indicated by all the major current factors. After all this, it has become axiomatic that a single question preoccupies the minds of the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, and others who have practiced and continue to practice the policy of hostility to Iraq. This question is: How will we deal with an Iraq that we have wounded and an Iraq whose people we have tortured, contributing to the murder of a million of Iraqi citizens?

To perpetuate the game of using these rulers, the United States has assured them that it will protect them, even if the blockade is lifted, but the United States will not convince them of the most important issue in the entire question, namely that lifting the blockade, which is a future inevitability, will impose one of two bitter options on the United States itself: either continue to boycott Iraq—and thus lose more of its interests and allow other international forces to fill the "trade void," which is something that the major U.S. firms that command President Clinton will reject—or be compelled to normalize its relations with Iraq in a year or two.

Let us consider these two options in order to determine the fate of the rulers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. If the United States chooses to continue to boycott Iraq when the blockade is lifted, then it will put itself, along with the Arab rulers who have fought Iraq, in a devil's palm because Iraq's capabilities will enable it to march forth anew and play the role of the major regional power. Thus, the Arab rulers concerned will find that they are no longer able to play the role planned for them in the "UN game." From the U.S. perspective, this is the full equivalent of negation of the need for these rulers, considering that the U.S. support they receive is tied to the condition of their containing the Arab situation and molding it according to the U.S.-Zionist interest.

Iraq is not Rwanda and not even Yugoslavia. The rulers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others must remember this fact today, not tomorrow. The world of the 21st century is tantamount to a an inverse pyramid sitting on its pointed tip, and this pointed tip is oil. Iraq is emerging now as the number one oil power in the world for at least 100 years to come, not to mention its other capabilities that are more important than oil, namely its social fabric and its political structure, which has proven to be the firmest and most durable in the world.

Therefore, continued stability of the inverse world pyramid that sits on its pointed tip depends on an Iraqi decision. Even though the United States and other countries try to black out this fact in order to deny Iraq the possibility of utilizing its added value on the one hand and, on the other hand, to stop those who have practiced the policy of hostility to Iraq from falling into the swamp of fear of the future, numerous countries, especially Russia and France, plus Arab and non-Arab neighboring countries, realize the true value of Iraq. These countries have become convinced that the future of war and peace in the Arab homeland and in the neighboring regions is tied to Iraq's reactions and positions.

Within this context, the so-called establishment of a "Middle Eastern order" or the "establishment of peace between Arabs and Jews" is nothing but the dreams of birds engaged in hollow twitter. This is because the biggest, richest, and most advanced and developed power in this geographic region of the orient, namely Iraq, is far from these plans and because efforts are made to isolate it. How can a regional order be established without Iraq? Can any country that joins this order claim that it can dispense with Iraq and not deal with it? If some countries do join this stillborn order, will they be able to get a "couple" together on the illicit bed?

All those who have talked about establishing a "Middle Eastern order" or "comprehensive peace" realize in advance that without Iraq and Iraq's consent, any regional arrangements are doomed to inevitable failure. Perhaps this explains the phenomenon of the abysmal failure to establish this order, even though the United States is the "master of the situation" and even though "its friends" are rich and they have declared their "repentance" and have cast away the frock of Arabism and Islam and donned the Jews' yarmulke on their heads. Is there anything to prevent the United States and its friends from establishing "their new order?" The obvious answer is no, there is nothing to prevent this, but in reality, the issue seems to be totally different because the "Middle Eastern order" is an order of political subservience to Zionism and the United States. The crux and foundation of this order is to build a meshed economy. This process requires financing. Financiers, in contrast with some Arab rulers, are intelligent and they know that to invest their money in an unstable region which is swaying with serious crises and where the biggest and most vital econo-political force, namely Iraq, is isolated is tantamount to a serious risk. This is why these investors have waited to find out what Iraq's future is before they embark on any venture with their capital, which is dear to them.

The consequences of a continued U.S. boycott of Iraq are known as of now. It is certain that the European Union [EU], Japan, and other Asian countries, and first of all Russia, will assault Iraq commercially and will establish with it broader and deeper relations than the pre-blockade relations. This option serves the best interests of Iraq and of the other countries. Commercially and technologically, Iraq does not need the United States now, contrary to the 1970s and 1980s when the United States was the pinnacle in technology. It is not in Iraq's interest to grant the United States any preferential trade treatment, considering that free trade tips the scales in favor of Japanese, Asian, and European goods which have a better quality and lower price than U.S. goods. Therefore, a continued U.S. boycott will open the doors to the best options for Iraq. Moreover, Asian and European countries will find in Iraq one of the world's best and most vital markets and a market with the capability to give and take.

A continued U.S. boycott will result in two fundamental things:

The first is that the United States will lose the biggest opportunity in the region. The second will be the emergence of large-scale economic cooperation between Iraq and the Asian and European blocs. This cooperation will create an independent center or order that intersects with the U.S. plan and operates far from it. It must be recalled, of course, that the Asian and European blocs are the most vital within the framework of the Tripartite Alliance or Tripartite Committee that includes North America, Europe, and Japan. It must also be remembered that Iraq is the most vital and capable bloc at the various levels in the Arab homeland and the neighboring regions. Therefore, this economic axis will possess cards that are more effective and more influential in the region and the world than the cards of the U.S. axis.

[2 Jul 95, pp 1, 3]

There is a fact that worries the United States and its friends among Arab rulers, namely that the basic value of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is their wealth and oil. Without them, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait represent nothing but absolute void to the United States. If filled, this void will contain something that the United States despises strongly and that it refrains from mentioning out of respect for public taste. It is enough for us to bring up "Harem" and "Death of a Princess," the two movies in which the United States disparaged Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers explicitly.

Now everybody, and most of all King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, realize that oil money is in U.S. banks and that it will certainly not be returned. Enough U.S. laws have been passed to block its transfer to Saudi Arabia and other countries. Thus, the "petrodollar" problem worries the United States no longer. Rather, it worries Arab "petrodollar" owners. This fact explains the "secret" behind the deficit in the Saudi and Kuwaiti trade balances since 1991. It also explains the decline of the two countries' economic capability, even though they have more than $700 billion in U.S. banks. This is something that has led to the decline of the "two countries' political influence" even in Egypt, their strongest bastion, where most people who have been collecting hush money from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, along with Egyptian patriots not snared by the trap of the Saudi-Kuwaiti inducement, have stood up recently to revile the two states.

The aggression against Iraq and the continued payment of bribes to those who have a role in perpetuating the blockade have pushed Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the verge of bankruptcy. Moreover, the maximum oil production capacity, which Saudi Arabia has already reached and which is 8 million barrels daily, is no longer enough to meet needs that are growing daily. What will Saudi Arabia's condition be when the blockade against Iraq is lifted and when the Saudi quota, which has doubled since Iraq was prevented from exporting its oil, is reduced? Nobody is unaware that Iraq's return will reduce Saudi production. This will, in turn, diminish Saudi revenues. Consequently, Saudi Arabia's stifling crisis will become even more complex, and this condition will diminish Saudi Arabia's trade value.

Thus, it is obvious to us that if the United States carries on independently with the blockade against Iraq, this condition will lead to immense upheavals in the region. These upheavals will work against the United States and its satellites and will serve Iraq and those who cooperate with it commercially.

If we assume that the United States will be able to contain its irrational current tendencies, to which it submits when dealing with Iraq, and if we assume that it will normalize its relations with Iraq, which is a possibility that cannot be excluded in the long run, then its first duty will be to develop a formula to resolve the sharp conflict in its relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the one hand and Iraq on the other. The Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued hostility to the Iraqi people, their continued instigation for perpetuation of the blockade, and their financing of this blockade will make it difficult for any Iraqi to forget these crimes. Every Iraqi home has a victim of the blockade. Every Iraqi family openly holds the United States and Saudi, Kuwaiti, and Egyptian rulers responsible for this condition and demands that the murderers and the criminal be punished.

Here, a most important question surfaces, namely: Who will the United States opt for in connection with future trade and political dealings? Will it opt for the corrupt and isolated Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers who have been milked dry financially and economically and who have become a political burden to the United States? Will it opt for the young and strong Iraq that abounds with vitality, expertise, capability, and wealth in all spheres, not just in oil, and that must be inevitably dealt with in its capacity as the most important center in the Arab homeland and the adjacent regions?

Any rational U.S. tendency that wants U.S. interests to be preserved and to flourish will certainly opt for Iraq. Consequently, the CIA director will be instructed to "take whatever is required" to untie the "knot" between Iraq and Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers.

The "solution to the knot" is known in advance: Those who have persevered and have successfully brought down stars from the sky—namely Iraq's strugglers in the areas of political steadfastness and of rebuilding and reconstruction—are the weighty, distinguished, and broadly influential force. Therefore, the U.S. process of normalization with Iraq will be coupled with a reexamination of the presence of the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers. This is a fact, not a possibility, because modern history has proven repeatedly that the United States sells its friends to "its enemies" when the enemies stand fast and prove that they are invincible.

So, in both U.S. options—the option of carrying on with the blockade independently or of normalization with Iraq—the "sacrificial lamb" will undoubtedly be the Arab rulers who have gone along with the United States in striking Iraq and torturing its people. The United States is well aware of this fact. This is why we have seen, especially in recent months, new manifestations that must inevitably worry these rulers.

Insofar as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are concerned, we see the United States and Europe embracing the opposition openly, encouraging it, and opening for it the "doors to criticize its rulers" after a period of silence that started in 1990. The western media is publishing detailed reports on the Saudi political and economic crisis and on the violations of "human rights and democracy" committed in Saudi Arabia. Moreover, U.S. sources are not reluctant to speak of the imminent fall or replacement of these two regimes because of their corruption and because they have turned into a burden slowing down U.S. movement in the region at a time when rivals of the United States are moving fast!

As for Egypt, the regime there is increasingly losing its role as a regime. Major U.S. papers have been compelled to hold Mr. Husni Mubarak responsible for this condition, launching against him immense campaigns, also in the name of "human rights and democracy." THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST bring up the need to topple him. Other U.S. sources go further, accusing Mubarak of corruption by accusing his son! The attempt on Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa has come amidst strong indications that the United States has decided to dispense with his services! Mubarak has personally felt that the Ethiopian Government is involved in the attempt on his life. He voiced this feeling when he expressed surprise at the fact that all his guards were put in a single vehicle!

If we add to this the fact that the Zionist entity and the U.S. intelligence are arming "Egyptian groups" outside the regime, then we can expect that Mubarak's days are numbered and that the most prominent party that wants to get rid of him is the Americans!

The latest developments in Egypt are nothing but additional indications that the time to get rid of Mubarak has approached and that the party that will perform this act is the United States because it fears that the mujahidin and the pan-Arabists will seize power in Egypt now that the regime has proven that it is a failure and that it is totally isolated from the people.

Therefore, it is normal to raise anew questions asked previously: What will happen when the blockade against Iraq is lifted? How will certain Arab rulers deal with an Iraq they have wounded and an Iraq whose people they have tortured, contributing to the murder of 1 million of its citizens? Will Saudi Arabia and Kuwait be able to "tempt" the United States not to go along with the international tendency for normalization with Iraq, even though the two countries are losing the ability to offer a bribe or an alternative price?

The ideas just presented form a very clear panoramic view. Those who turn away from this view to avoid the reality must consider the future realistically and must force themselves to look at the picture of the near future. Iraq will inevitably return amidst the ululation of millions of Arab and Muslim women and the prayers of millions of Muslim mujahidin who were blinded by grief when they saw the armies of Abu-Raghghal [as transliterated] desecrate the sanctities. Iraq's return within a few months has now become an inevitable "fate."

These people who continue to be the captives of their hatred for the Iraqi people must notice that Iraq, not others, is the center of the panoramic view of the future, especially since it has surmounted all insurmountable tests, thus defying the impossible and opening numerous paths to a bright future for all Iraqis and Arabs. When those who hate the Iraqi people see this, they will realize that they have no future and no life without Iraq's consent and without the Iraqi people's blessings. They will also find that the United States, the biggest broker in history, has sold them cheaply and has begun to knock at Iraq's doors because America's god is the dollar.

What we wish with all our hearts, even though they are deeply wounded, is that the opportunity will not go unused by those who have offended the Iraqi people because we will not accept their repentance after they see with their own eyes U.S. President Bill Clinton bowing before the jihad swords carried by Saddam Husayn's honorable hand at the Greater Ceremonies Square in Baghdad!

Yes, rest assured that Bill Clinton will bow before the Iraqi people's greatness and that he will make peace with Saddam Husayn, Iraq's great son, when he is forced to come to Baghdad on the orders of his masters, owners of the major firms. Pardon will have no place then, and you will be compelled to carry Samsonite briefcases and to depart the big hotel called Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and to go to Las Vegas which embraces all tyrants and lackeys who are expelled by their peoples and who turn into dancers, gamblers, and brokers in this gambling town! Do you know General Kao Ki? If you don't know his name because you have been preoccupied with what is "soft and warm," then you must know that he was an air force general to whom the United States handed over power in South Vietnam, but he did not last long in the face of the Vietnamese people's struggle. So he fled to the United States and he has now become a dancer and a broker in Las Vegas!

What is truly sad is that Fahd, Sultan, Jabir, and Husni Mubarak are not fit to dance like dancers in Las Vegas! Therefore, they have only one sphere in which they can work. We will refrain from mentioning this sphere, and a hint is enough for the smart.

The current developments in the Arab Gulf and Egypt, some of which have become visible while others are still fermenting under the surface and getting ready to surface, are nothing but multi-sided and multi-shaped preparations for the approaching phase in which Iraq returns, the bastions of U.S. domination of the region fall, and struggles of a different kind in the world and the region start—struggles to which the United States will be only one of many parties.

All are preparing, and the most prominent aspect of their preparation is their provision for the future. Only the wise and the intelligent have realized, and will realize, that regional stability and security are impossible unless normal relations are established with a returning Iraq that harbors goodwill toward all brothers and neighbors, even though some of them have been evil and treacherous. Iraq proceeds from a historical vision that surpasses pain and the tendency for revenge and that is keen on providing real opportunities for cooperation through forgiveness, pardon, and disregard for past complexes. This has been Iraq's destiny in the past, and it is its destiny in the present and the future.

Finally, an absent-minded "amir" may ask: Can the blockade against Iraq be lifted while the U.S. boycott of Iraq continues? Our answer is yes. The follies of the current U.S. rulers, who inhale the smoke of cocaine-filled pipes, may drive them to butt heads with the entire world and to stay isolated from the world. This is the option of those who have risen on the edges of civilization and who have grown up in bars. This option will, of course, be the worst folly committed by the United States in modern history because it will be tantamount to the mercy bullet fired at the U.S. open-door policy, which started after World War II. It will also be tantamount to the radical revival of the U.S. isolationist tendency whose ghost is now roaming the alleys and coils of the brains of U.S. decisionmakers and which has motivated Clinton to rant and rave about it for good reason and for no reason.

Will Fahd, Jabir, and Husni understand what I have written? It is certain that each of them will summon his adviser and ask him for an explanation, but the explanation will be given by men selected by the U.S. intelligence to work as advisers. It will be a reassuring explanation that soothes their nerves but blinds their eyes and opens the way for new figures from within and from outside the ruling families to rise and kick out whoever has become a burden and a lifeless body that will not be accepted even by the lowliest parts of Las Vegas!

So where will those who reject Iraq's honest advice go? This is another question to be added to other questions that are becoming sharper and louder.

Rabin Briefs Labor on Oslo B, 'Arafat Promise

TA0310104595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Liat Collins and Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has promised that two months after the establishment of the Palestinian National Council, the PLO will rescind the calls for the destruction of Israel from its covenant, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Labor Knesset faction yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Likud faction decided that unless the maps that were part of the Oslo 2 accords are delivered to its MKs' [Knesset member] homes, it will demand postponing Thursday's [5 October] planned debate on the agreement.

Rabin was addressing a meeting in Tel Aviv called by faction members anxious to hear details of the Oslo 2 accord before the Knesset vote, where it is expected to narrowly pass.

Rabin reportedly called the abolition of the clauses "a central test ... If they are not rescinded, we will reach conclusions."

In an attempt to reassure the Labor MKs, Rabin stressed that Israel retains overriding security responsibility, adding: "Israel has kept all options open for the permanent arrangements."

Pointing at a map Rabin said he wants "a wide Jerusalem corridor" and specifically mentioned Gush 'Etzyon and the Jordan Valley. There will be no Palestinian police stations east of the so-called Alon Line, which includes these areas, he said.

Police stations would not be based along the 1967 border except for the towns of Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, he added, and there will be no sites with both armed Palestinian and Israeli forces, apart from Hebron. The security arrangements at the Cave of the Patriarchs will remain the same, with the addition of two unarmed municipal inspectors, Rabin said.

Despite the reassurances, MK [Knesset member] 'Imanu'el Zismann said after the meeting he still intends to vote against the accord, citing fears of the security situation.

MK Avigdor Qahalani said he had "a heavy heart," but refused to say how he would vote. He said he is particularly concerned about the plans for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment every six months for 18 months, and wants each withdrawal to be approved by the Knesset.

Although YI'UD MK Alex Goldfarb, whose vote could tip the balance, has also refused to say how he will vote, Qahalani claimed Goldfarb has tried to persuade him to support the accords.

Rabin is scheduled to meet with Zismann, Qahalani and Goldfarb before the vote. [passage omitted]

General Provides Details of Oslo B Agreement

TA0310103695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Oct 95 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch, yesterday briefed military correspondents on details of the security aspects of the agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Dayan said that in formulating the security agreement the Israeli delegation was guided by three considerations: The position of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley in Israel's security concept; defense of the settlements and their routine life; and the prevention of terrorism aimed against Israeli population centers within the Green Line.

Dayan said the elections for the PA council will not be held before April 1996. He said "Israel will permit democratic and open elections," and will not intervene in the elections campaign or the process of the elections themselves.

Dayan said the IDF's redeployment will be comprised of two stages: the evacuation of the six cities, and later the evacuation of Hebron. He said efforts will be made to evacuate the six cities by December 1995. "IF the Palestinians prefer to wait for the completion of the redeployment (including in Hebron), it will be implemented (completed) six months after the signing of the agreement, which will bring us to 28 March 1996." The detailed plan of the additional redeployment in the rural area — Area B — will be concluded by the two sides no later than two weeks after the end of March 1996.

Dayan added: "Israel will make an effort to complete the redeployment, except for Hebron, by 30 December. The expression 'will make an effort' takes into account the need to complete the bypass roads in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and later in Hebron."

By the end of the redeployment stage "up to 12,000 Palestinian policemen" will be deployed in the West Bank. During the first stage, 6,000 policemen will enter the West Bank cities. This comes in addition to the 18,000 policemen currently deployed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Dayan said that altogether the Palestinians will have 30,000 policemen.

"Israel has a right of veto over the new recruits to the Palestinian Police. Policemen who after the fact turn out to be objectionable to Israel will be fired," Dayan said. The Palestinian policemen will "altogether possess 8,000 weapons. No armored cars will be allowed in the West Bank."

Maj. Gen. Dayan said that the IDF and the PA will conduct joint security operations in Area A — the urban area — including joint patrols of the kind employed along road No. 90 passing through Jericho.

Referring to the holy sites, Maj. Gen. Dayan said the agreement takes care of the holy sites in Area A. In Rachel's Tomb, Israeli posts will be established in the area of the tomb itself as well as the parking lot, and "the status quo in the area will be preserved."

In Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus a similar arrangement will be introduced to that employed in the Shalom 'Al Yisra'el Synagogue in Jericho. Israeli guards will be posted in Joseph's Tomb, but they will be plain clothed. Dayan said the sides failed to reach an agreement concerning the Cave of the Patriarchs, therefore the status quo will remain in effect for another three months.

Referring to Israeli security control, Dayan said that "Israeli traffic on the main roads should not only be unhampered in principle, but will remain under complete Israeli security control. Obviously, although such control is guaranteed by the agreement, this does not rule out the possibility of an attack. We will have to provide security on all roads used by Israelis in the West Bank."

Dayan said that "the agreement does not create a new reality. It can provide a basis and a tool for creating such a reality. In addition, such a security agreement is a method for preserving and protecting our security interests."

Dayan said that he believes the agreement on Hebron "is the best possible agreement under the present circumstances." He confirmed that "Hebron is one of the most sensitive points in the situation that will unfold under the parameters of the agreement. This city has a history of bloodshed, riots, and massacres."

On the issue of the extradition of suspects, Maj. Gen. Dayan said "this agreement provides the same rules and arrangements as stipulated in the Gaza-Jericho agreement."

Dayan said that the agreement does not herald any changes as far as the Gaza Strip is concerned. He said a Palestinian hotel will be built on Mawasi beach (in which there are agricultural areas). The Mawasi area will be defined as Area B in which the Palestinians will be permitted to impose law and order in coordination with Israel and upon its approval.

Cabinet Discusses Palestinian Prisoner Release

TA0210124195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Report by Shlomi Stein]

[FBIS Translated Text] The release of the Palestinian prisoners was discussed at today's cabinet session.

At the beginning of the session, the ministers were briefed by security officials on the early warnings received about plans to carry out terrorist attacks during the holiday. The ministers reiterated the prime minister's counterterrorism adviser's warning to the public to be on the alert. Although the meeting itself dealt with economic issues, its participants were already occupied with thoughts about this Thursday [5 October], when the interim agreement signed with the Palestinians in Washington will be brought before the Knesset for approval. That is also when President 'Ezer Weizman is expected to announce whether or not he will pardon the Palestinian women prisoners who murdered Jews.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, one of the officials who led the negotiations with the Palestinians, said at the conclusion of today's cabinet session that while the government had a great deal of respect for the Israeli president, it must also uphold prior commitments — or in other words, release all the women prisoners.

[Begin recording] [Sarid] There are certain government commitments that we must also uphold. Therefore, when the president announces his decision after the Knesset debate, the government will have to hold consultations on its future steps.

[Stein] Does that mean that it is quite possible that if President Weizman decides on Thursday evening not to release the women prisoners, then the government will try to enact some kind of legislation in order to circumvent him?

[Sarid] I do not think we are talking about any kind of attempt to bypass the president. Nevertheless, there are government commitments and if such a situation arises, we will have to think about what to do. I cannot say any more than that.

[Stein] But the government definitely intends to uphold its international commitment to release the women prisoners?

[Sarid] I believe that this government generally tends to uphold the commitments it makes. [end recording]

Other ministers also commented on this issue. Minister Ora Namir recalled at the end of the session that President Weizman was the one who promised Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that he would release all the Palestinian women prisoners, including those who had murdered Jews. At any rate, the focus now shifts to the Knesset and the presidential residence, with the Prime Minister's Office moving back into the limelight only at the end of the week or at the start of next week.

Dovish Religious Party Favors Oslo B Agreement

TA0310105395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The religious Memad movement [dovish religious party] yesterday came out in favor of the Oslo 2 accord, "despite all the concerns." After a special meeting of Memad's secretariat, the movement, headed by Rabbi Yehuda Amital, issued its statement.

The movement attributed its stand to, among other things, "a realization of the demographic realities in Judaea and Samaria.

Netanyahu Criticizes Rabin Attack on U.S. Jewry

TA0310105295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Oct 95 p A4

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu sharply criticized Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday for attacking the positions of Jewish leaders in the United States.

Netanyahu chose to open his remarks at a Likud Knesset faction meeting, devoted to a discussion of the Oslo B agreement, with a blistering attack against Rabin on this matter. "The prime minister continues to delegitimize anyone opposed to his views," Netanyahu said. "We have no better friends than American Jewry. The American Jewish community is concerned about the fate of Jerusalem and Hebron. That is why Rabin attacked them. It is their right to oppose the transfer of funds to the PLO. In the United States, Rabin continued the same divisive process he began in Israel."

The Likud leader added that Rabin's criticism was especially strange in light of the fact that Rabin himself had sent senior military officers and emissaries to the United States to obstruct U.S. aid to Likud governments.

Netanyahu said that "anyone who considers Hebron as real estate will eventually view the Western Wall in the same way. Anyone who says there are only 400 Jews in Hebron is erasing 4,000 years of Judaism. This government is moving away from Jewish values and is incapable of confronting the erosion it began. This government litigates against Jewish rights while serving as the Arabs' advocate.

The Likud chairman expressed support for Rabin's opposition to the release of Jewish prisoners convicted of murdering Arabs. "Murderers are murderers," Netanyahu said, and called on the president not to release a single prisoner, neither Arab nor Jew.

As for the Oslo B agreement, Netanyahu pointed out that Rabin had broken all his promises to the public. "In the agreement, Rabin hands over 70 percent of the territory of Judaea and Samaria to the Palestinians, and not the 30 percent that he claims," Netanyahu said. "The Jordan Rift Valley will not be a security zone any more. All of Peres' promises that no army will be deployed west of the Jordan River are meaningless. The agreement sanctions the establishment of an armed terrorist army in Judaea and Samaria. In the heart of Eretz Yisra'el, an army of 30,000 armed terrorists is taking form — the PLO's army and terrorist expeditionary forces.

Netanyahu also asserted that the agreement constitutes a "future threat of war and an impingement of Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem, seeing as the agreement stipulates that East Jerusalem Arabs will vote in ballots stationed in Jerusalem — or, in effect, the redivision of Jerusalem."

Netanyahu noted that the agreement does not resolve the problem of the non-extradition of terrorists. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Comments on Golan 'Message' for al-Asad

TA3009193995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' says there has been no exchange of messages between President al-Asad and Binyamin Netanyahu concerning the fate of the negotiations following the Israeli elections. Interviewed by CNN, al-Shar' did not deny that a message had been received from the Likud chairman, but he refused to elaborate. [passage omitted]

Reacting to al-Shar's remarks, Knesset Member Netanyahu said that during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher in Jerusalem, he was asked about the Likud's position on the Golan. He replied that a Likud-led government would leave the Golan in Israeli hands while continuing to strive to peace with Syria. Netanyahu asserted that this was the only message conveyed to Syria on his behalf.

Peres Addresses UN General Assembly on Peace

TA0210173595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen; italicized passages recorded in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us move now to New York, where Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres addressed the UN General Assembly, saying that the Syrian president is mistaken in deciding that peace can be made only through military negotiations. Mr. Peres called on Syria and Lebanon not to hesitate and to join the peace process.

[Peres] *And I would like to use this occasion to turn to the Syrians and to turn to the Lebanese to stop hesitating, to stop wondering; they have to look at this record and come in and follow up.*

Minister Peres addressed all Middle East nations, saying that we do not wish to create a new Middle East but rather to introduce the Middle East into the new era. Peres added that Israel is strong militarily and has an excellent economy — an economy of brains. He warned against the combination of advanced technology in the hands of countries that harbor deep hatred.

[Peres] *May I say that in the best of my judgment, the greatest danger is a combination between high technology and deep hatred, of modern instruments and feudalistic views.*

By the end of the year, Peres said, there will not be a single Palestinian opposed to the peace process. The government chose to pursue the path of peace despite the risks and the strong internal opposition.

[Peres] *Even politically, as difficult as it may be at home, because as a party we may win historically but we may also lose politically, but then, winning peace is more important in our eyes than to win elections. Why should you be elected if you don't use the mandate of the people to change the course of your history?*

New Mosad Director Seen Likely To Be 'Outsider'

TA0210101595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The next head of the Mosad will very likely be appointed from outside the ranks of the organization, a source in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

Last year, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin accepted the recommendation of Maj.-Gen. (res) Refa'el Vardi to limit the terms of heads of the Mosad and the General Security Service [GSS] to four years, with an optional one-year extension.

The recommendation was part of a broader report Vardi submitted, at Rabin's request, dealing with the general parameters governing the work of the agencies.

The current head of the Mosad will complete his seventh year next April, when he is expected to be replaced. The former head of the GSS, Ya'aqov Peri also served seven years until he was replaced last March.

The "outsider" accompanied Rabin last week when he met with Mosad and GSS officials for a customary Rosh Hashanah Eve toast.

While his identity cannot be revealed, he is known to be in uniform and close to Rabin.

Several Mosad department heads said privately that they oppose the appointment of an outsider as a matter of principle.

But no prominent candidate has emerged within the ranks, so discontent and resignations are not expected, unlike the situation when the GSS's Peri was replaced.

Israeli Settlers Demonstrate, Cross Jordan River

Demonstrate at Allenby Bridge

TA0110134595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A demonstration staged by Jordan Valley settlers this morning at the Allenby Bridge has ended. The demonstrators dispersed after the police released all those detained during the demonstration.

The demonstrators told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that this morning's demonstration is just the first stage of protest activities against the concessions Israel made to the Palestinians in the interim agreement, especially where it concerns expanding the Jericho autonomous area.

All roads in the area are currently open to traffic.

Break Fence, Cross Border

TA0210083395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the Jordan Rift Valley Brigade this morning demanded that the several dozen demonstrators, residents of the valley and of Ma'ale Efrayim, return from Jordan into Israeli territory. The settlers had crossed the border fence into Jordanian territory.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that several IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers attempted to prevent the settlers from tearing down the border fence, but the settlers forced their way through, pushing aside an army truck, and crossed the Jordan River.

Settlers Storm Jordan Border

JN0210211095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dozens of Israeli settlers expressed opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement today by storming a gate on an Israeli security fence near the Jordanian-Israeli borders north of (Umm al-Shart) on the Jordan River in their cars, despite Israeli forces' attempts to prevent their approach.

As soon as the settlers crossed the river, the Jordanian Armed Forces officers in charge of the area arrived on the scene and returned them to the other side, while the Israeli forces waited on the opposite side of the river and took the settlers back to the cars in which they arrived.

The settlers handed the Jordanian officer in command a letter and asked that it be forwarded to His Majesty King Husayn. The letter is connected with the future of their settlements following the expansion of the [Palestinian] autonomy to include the settlements in the Jericho area.

Settlers' Complaints, Demands Detailed

TA0210103395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Herb Keinon and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud will file a bill proposing sovereign continuity throughout the Jordan Valley from Bet She'an to the Dead Sea, it announced yesterday.

Likud MK [Knesset Member] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said that sovereignty in the Jordan Valley is a part of the Labor platform as well as the Likud's, and he expects coalition MKs [Knesset members] to vote in favor of the bill.

Residents of the Jordan Valley settlements are planning further protests in the next few days, similar to yesterday's demonstration during which 500 people blocked the Allenby Bridge to protest concessions given the Palestinian Authority. This morning they are planning to attempt to cross the border into Jordan to demonstrate how porous the borders are.

"This is now a struggle by the residents over their existence here," said David Elhayani, head of the Jordan Valley Settler's Committee. "We have been tricked by everyone, by the whole political echelon, including the prime minister."

Elhayani was one of 18 people arrested yesterday after blocking the bridge. The demonstration frequently turned violent amid confrontations between residents and police. Because of the protest, hundreds of people were kept from crossing for nearly two hours.

The group agreed to disperse after the police released those who were arrested.

According to Elhayani, the government's agreement to declare Zubaydat, in the middle of the Jordan Valley, as part of Area B, in which Palestinian police can patrol, and to grant Area C status to the strategic Jiftlik area, flies in the face of promises that the Jordan Valley would remain under Israeli control as the country's eastern security boundary.

"Giving the Jiftlik area C status cuts the Jordan valley in two," Elhayani said. "And giving Area B status to Zubaydat means that Palestinian police will be able to move outside of Jericho."

Elhayani said the residents are also protesting plans to remove IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblocks around Jericho. "It's not as if Jericho is just a city of tourism, and not a refuge for terrorists," Elhayani said, maintaining that lifting the roadblocks will place Jordan Valley residents in danger.

"The concessions ensure that there will not be a continuous Jewish territorial presence," Elhayani said. "It turns us into cantons."

Elhayani said that protests in the region are meant to demonstrate that life will not return to normal until it is made clear that the Jordan Valley will remain under Israeli sovereignty, as the country's eastern security border. He said Jordan Valley residents want a government promise now of what their status will be under the final agreement with the Palestinians.

In addition to the protests at the Allenby Bridge, the schools in the region were closed yesterday.

Settlers Want Message Passed to King

JN0310075695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan River — More than 100 Jewish settlers angry at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's peace moves with the Palestinians took their protests on Monday [2 October] across the border to Jordan.

Settler leader David Levy asserted that the deal Israel signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Washington last week widening Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank posed a security threat to both Israelis and Jordanians.

The settlers broke open a gate in the Israeli border fence and drove through. Later parking their cars, they then crossed the River Jordan between the West Bank and Jordan in water chest-high.

The settlers headed back after handing two Jordanian soldiers a message for King Husayn. Israel radio said Israeli security forces arrested dozens of settlers when they crossed back into the West Bank about three hours later.

"We reached agreement with the Jordanian officer who will take a letter ... to King Husayn asking that Palestinians be barred from entering the area between us and the Jordanians," Yoav Noy, a protest organizer, said.

"Just as we lived in cooperation for 25 years, in peace and harmony, we don't want another element to interfere," he said.

Most of the demonstrators live in settlements in the Jordan Valley and claim they will be in danger if more land in the area comes under Palestinian rule.

Mr. Rabin told his cabinet on Monday that he proposed enlarging the Jericho enclave by about six square kilometers west-wards, in an area where there are no settlements. The Palestinians currently control 62 square kilometers in and around Jericho.

Under the Israel-PLO agreement, the Palestinian self-rule authority would also gain administrative control over the area of Jiftlik in the Jordan Valley, some 30 kilometers north of Jericho.

Israeli troops will remain in charge of security in Jiftlik which straddles a north-south thoroughfare used by the settlers.

Ayala Danieli, a 29-year-old date farmer, said she and other settlers were afraid. "We just don't want to live under the guns of Palestinian police. Nobody wants to live like that," she said.

However, Israeli cabinet ministers said Monday that the settlers' fears were unfounded. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said that 90 per cent of the valley would remain under Israeli control.

Monday's protest began when about 100 settlers marched towards the border fence with Jordan. Israeli soldiers made a halfhearted attempt to stop the settlers who pushed them aside.

The settlers used dozens of cars to break into the no-man's land near Netiv Hagdud settlement, 15 kilometers north of the autonomous enclave of Jericho.

They pushed an army vehicle into a ditch and then waded between tall bamboo stools across the river, breaching the cease-fire line which separates the West Bank from Jordan.

The demonstrators struggled in waist-high, muddy water against a strong current at a point of the river less than 10 metres.

Israeli soldiers, taken by surprise and at first outnumbered, were helpless once the settlers had crossed as they are not allowed to enter Jordanian territory.

The settlers said their latest protest was aimed at highlighting how easy it was to penetrate the line and that plans to expand Jericho would leave them even more vulnerable.

Senior Israeli officers later arrived and angrily ordered the settlers to return. The settlers responded with chants of: "We shall not be moved."

The group eventually returned to Israel after an hour on the Jordanian side. Dozens of settlers were briefly detained for questioning. Israeli radio said police planned to file charges at a later time.

A legislator from the opposition Likud Party, meanwhile, said Monday he would submit a bill which would instruct the government to annex the Jordan Valley.

Demonstration Ends; Leaders Arrested

TA0210104295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordan Rift Valley settlers ended their demonstration, staged on both banks of the Jordan River, after a Jordanian Army officer promised to relay their protest to King Husayn. The settlers earlier forcibly tore down the border fence and crossed the river into Jordan's territory.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu this morning toured the Jordan Rift Valley, accompanied by several Knesset members of his party. He met Vered Yeriho settlers and viewed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblocks in the area. Netanyahu said that Israel is losing its grip on the valley because the prime minister has gone back on his promise that the Jordan River will constitute a security strip for the State of Israel.

Commander Eli Kron, commander of Samaria and Judaea Police District, has decided to hold David Levi, head of the Jordan rift Valley Regional Council, and David Alhayani, head of the Jordan Valley settlers committee, for questioning.

[A similar report by Gil Litman on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 2 October adds that the police arrested "dozens of settlers" after the demonstration ended]

Three Held in Attack on Israeli Envoy's Residence

JN0210165895 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] One week after shots were fired on the Israeli Embassy in Amman, security forces arrested a member of the Fatah-The Uprising group, which is led by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], on charges of planning an attack against the Israeli ambassador's residence in Amman. Sources said that Jamal al-Nusur was arrested with two of his colleagues on charges of attacking the Israeli ambassador's residence and opening fire with a machine gun from a BMW automobile.

Information received by AL-BILAD says that the attackers in the car traded fire with the guards of the Israeli ambassador's residence and were later pursued by a patrol car.

Embassy Denies Reports on King's Visit to Israel

JN0110155995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's Embassy in Israel has denied today's report by the Jerusalem newspaper AL-QUDS that King Husayn will pay an official visit to Israel before the economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman late October. Yesterday, Damascus Radio aired a similar report without citing a Jordanian or Israeli source.

The prime minister's office said it knows nothing about a visit by King Husayn to Israel shortly.

Officials Visit Tel Aviv To Discuss Trade Agreement

JN0110163795 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 1 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MASHRIQ has learned that Dr. Muhammad al-Sumadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Nazmi 'Abdallah, director general of the Customs Department, have visited Tel Aviv to put the final touches on the trade agreement before it is signed.

The Jordanian and Israeli sides are seeking to accelerate efforts to overcome outstanding obstacles on the trade agreement before the Amman economic summit convenes. Sources said this agreement will encourage states and international institutions to adopt the joint projects proposed by the two sides and provide the necessary financial help.

It is noteworthy that the the two sides disagree on the site for the free zones. The Israeli side insists that they be located north of al-'Aqabah. The Jordanian side insists on including the input of Palestinians, and on locating the zones north of the Dead Sea.

Official on Decision Not To Attend Iraqi Elections

JN0310071095 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 6

[From "A Point of Order" column by Bassam Haddadin, member of the House of Representatives: "We Apologize for Not Participating in the Pan-Arab Festivities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi command invited Jordanian parties and many parliamentarians, trade unionists, and public figures to visit Iraq and observe in person the procedures for the election of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who has decided to run for president after amending the Iraqi constitution to allow the people to elect the president directly. The Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party, the party to which I belong, and I myself, also received invitations.

After strenuous discussions, the party decided not to accept this invitation and not to send a party delegation to participate in overt theatrics, whose scenes and results are known. This brave decision means that the party refuses to be a false witness in a deception that misrepresents the demands for public liberty and democracy and confines them to what was decided by the leader who believes he is the one and only leader. That is why he decided to run as an uncontested candidate.

What a farce!

And what is this scoffing at people's intelligence?

The Iraqi people want all of their public liberties, and they also want democracy. They accept that this occurs in stages. They do not want the issue to become one where 99.999 percent of the people support the leader and his policies and put their destiny in his hands so that he can lead them like a herd of sheep with no will of their own.

Mistaken are those who think that the refusal to participate in these Iraqi national festivities means supporting the United States and its allies in the region, who do all they can to ensnare Iraq in the trap of new arrangements for the region. I firmly believe that the insistence on stifling public liberties and democracy in Iraq will make it easier for Iraq to fall under the control of the U.S.-Israeli-Arab alliance. I also believe that the genuine pan-Arab stand is to support the Iraqi people's endeavors to break the siege and help them win their democratic rights.

In one of my articles in a weekly newspaper under the headline "Jordanians First But Arabs Always" I called on the Jordanian parties and democratic forces to support the Arab masses. I was referring at the time to the absence of any reports in the Jordanian press, with the exception of AL-JAMAHIR, on the demonstrations by the masses in Khartoum asking al-Bashir for bread and democracy. I said at the time, and I repeat it now, that our parties should not cancel their pan-Arab role for ideological, political, or organizational reasons. Because we support Iraq and the Iraqi people, we refuse to participate in this theatrical, and we will continue to call for lifting the siege on Iraq and will continue to oppose all forms of interference in its domestic affairs.

We will continue to call on the Iraqi leaders to unleash the people's potential and their democratic liberties because people who are not masters on their land have no dignity.

Return of 'Mutual Trust' With Syria Ruled Out

JN0210210595 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by the political affairs editor: "Now That Syrians Have Revived Their Dreams in Northern Jordan: U.S. Forces Train on Rescuing al-Mafraq From Possible Syrian Attack"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having put all its eggs in the U.S. basket and accepted the rules of partnership, Jordan must now address the obligations of this partnership. First of all, Jordan must endorse the presumed U.S. scenarios for developments in the region.

Since the Madrid conference, Jordan's foreign policy has pursued a new and interesting "philosophy." 'Abdallah al-Nusur, head of the House of Representative's Foreign Affairs Committee, characterizes this as a philosophy of axes dictated by a host of regional considerations. Jordan's courting of Saudi Arabia, recent Kuwaiti statements, reconciliation with Cairo, the apparent cool ties with Damascus — all these developments cannot be understood without knowing the secrets that drive Jordanian decisionmakers to woo a certain party in the region or to keep their distance from another.

Jordan's relationship with Syria remains the most ambiguous. Damascus totally refuses to compare the peace it wants with that of Jordan. At the same time, however, Damascus asks the Israeli negotiators questions which reflect its desire to achieve a similar peace to that of Jordan. Some people who are close to the regime in Jordan criticize Jordan's handling of peace and demand a tough negotiating position that is similar to Syria's. Chief among those are Ahmad 'Ubaydat, former prime minister, and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, a prominent liberal minister and politician. What are the secrets behind the fake smiles exchanged between Syrian and Jordanian officials? What is happening behind the scenes between the two parties? What is the role of the Americans in fanning the flames of the estrangement?

A senior Jordanian official who declined to reveal his name told AL-BILAD: I do not think that a day will come soon when the Syrians are free of their misgivings toward Jordan or when the Jordanians abandon their fears of Syrian ambitions. Noting that the issue is extremely serious and delicate, this official added: We read reports daily showing that some senior party and state officials in Syria still regard Jordan as southern Syria. If we told you that we trust the Syrian leadership, we would be deceiving ourselves and you as well.

In light of the revelations of this official, we can conclude that the peace contest between Jordan and Syria reflects a behind- the-scenes mental and political conflict that has no direct relationship with peace. 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, majority leader in parliament, underlines this fact when he says: The Syrian regime wants Jordan to remain one of its satellites. This regime is not happy with Jordan's recent regional successes. Thus, the conflict has taken on the shape of a fierce contest to determine whose approach to peace is more efficient. 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali adds: The talk about Arab unity after 50 years of regionalism is, politically, an unnecessary waste of time. The talk about relations with Syria not based on mutual interests is not accurate.

Observers have noticed that Jordanian official statements exhibit extreme caution when addressing the Syrian stand. Those observers have also noticed that Jordan does not attack the Syrian leadership. The opposite is also true. This, however, is not evidence of latent love between the two parties.

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has made it public that Jordan's peace, as well as negotiating experience, are different from that of Syria. Al-Kabariti says the train of peace will stop at the Golan, sooner of later. He adds: The Jordanian- Israeli treaty does not stipulate any security arrangements on the border. Our military units are free to move any time along the Jordanian-Israeli border on their own terms and according to their own needs. Al-Kabariti adds: There are no security arrangements or restrictions on our armed forces on the border with Israel. The situation on the Syrian-Israeli border is different.

Sources close to al-Kabariti told AL-BILAD that al-Kabariti's repeated assertions that Jordan's peace is different from Syria's have upset the Syrians, who take these statements to indicate a desire to show off and fish in Syrian waters. These sources said the stalemate on the Syrian track is largely due to Damascus's desire to tailor a dress for peace that is similar to the Jordanian dress. However, fears of imitation, coupled with Israel's rejection, have not allowed the Syrians to achieve what they want. This has reflected negatively on the Jordanian-Syrian relationship.

The information contained in this report up to this point can very well be objective and reasonable. However, the interesting part in the Syrian-Jordanian relationship concerns reports circulated by U.S. quarters about Syrian military threats to Jordan. A U.S. security report obtained by AL-BILAD sources speaks about the prospects of a Syrian military attack on northern Jordan if the Syrian-Israeli track continues to stumble. This is part of a Syrian scenario to change geographic facts and spare Syria further pressures and negotiations.

AL-BILAD sources in the United States confirm that U.S. forces are particularly active these days. They are engaged in tactical exercises linked to possible attacks by some extremist countries against U.S. allies in the Middle East. The sources noted a large military exercise on a counterattack to rescue northern Jordan, specifically the city of al-Mafraq, from a presumed military occupation by a neighbor state of Jordan.

The sources say this exercise is carried out periodically and includes military units whose task is to defend U.S. friends and allies in the Middle East. Plans for this exercise were developed and intensified recently after the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. One of the exercises is designed to counter a Syrian attack on northern Israel; another to counter a second Iraqi attack on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; and a third to check an Iranian attack on some small Gulf nations.

The U.S. sources which spoke to AL-BILAD say the U.S. newspapers that have ties with the Central Intelligence Agency have recently begun to publish more analyses on the threat of the Syrian regime to peace-loving countries in the region. Some analysts say this U.S. media focus on Syria is one way of putting pressure on the Syrian leadership to soften its negotiating position. All Jordanian sources which spoke to AL-BILAD rule out the return of mutual trust between Jordan and Syria. The sources add that the Syrian ruling mentality is full of hostile feelings toward Jordan.

Radio Denounces 'Arafat's Remarks Against Shiites

NC0310103295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Oct 95

[From the "Spotlight on Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Perhaps the Washington signing ceremony of the 'Arafatist-Zionist Taba accord should have been attended by Jewish rabbis and Zionist lobbyists side by side with Yitzhaq Rabin and Bill Clinton. The paradox was that in addition to Clinton and Rabin the ceremony was attended by Husni Mubarak, Husayn Bin-Talal, and Abdellatif Filali. Perhaps others wanted not to miss this happy opportunity but they were afraid their prestige would suffer. Or perhaps the U.S. leadership did not want to give them the honor of putting their signatures next to those of 'Arafat and Rabin on the document of surrender, which needed many witnesses.

With the Oslo-A accord the Americans contented themselves with the signatures of those directly involved. This time they preferred the Oslo-B accord be witnessed by the signatures of hypocrites and devils who helped abort the legitimate rights and just demands of the Palestinian people. The excuse is that peace always needs sacrifice even if this means annulling the cause and erasing the Palestinian people's identity.

In the ceremony the speakers excelled in their oratory, improving and polishing the image of treason and portraying it as an effort that deserves sacrifice and praise. Because all the leaders excelled, it was difficult to say who was most eloquent. But in the middle of this flowing eloquence, Yasir 'Arafat shone as a bright star and a brilliant actor. He mixed hopes with emotions and lies with promises. He managed to disown the Palestinian people's cause and history, earning praise and applause. Even dull-witted Yitzhaq Rabin rushed toward 'Arafat to congratulate him and to tell him: I can almost confirm that you are a Jew.

'Arafat smiled broadly at this testimony. To confirm it, he started leveling accusations against Iran and the Shiites, blaming them for Hamas operations. He hoped to please Washington and Tel Aviv and to inflame religious feelings in an ugly way. Hamas is a Sunni Islamic movement that belongs to the movement with the broader base in Islamic party politics, namely, the base of the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

If Iran and the Shiites support Hamas in its terrorism against the Zionist occupiers, the Resistance in south Lebanon is also terrorist. This is what 'Arafat wanted to say. Naturally, this pleased his listeners among the Americans Jews and the Zionist Americans. 'Arafat was searching for a key with which to open the hearts and minds of the Jews and Americans to grant blessing to him after he realized that no aid can come without U.S. and Jewish consent. Even fraternal Arab aid is conditional on U.S. consent.

Cursing and accusing Iran is a saleable and profitable commodity for whoever wants to win the love of the Zionists and the Zionist Americans. Cursing and accusing the Shiites proves that you are just a Jew, as Rabin testified. Rabin surrounded you with this honor and stamped you with this label forever.

Many Palestinians have been saying that 'Arafat is a mean Jew who is trying to hide his origins. Perhaps you accuse them of exaggerating because they are your opponents. But now that Rabin has testified that you are a Jew, this the final word refuting any argument. The other proof is your white, black, and red hand in slaughtering the Palestinian issue and hunting down the strugglers of Hamas and Jihad and other freedom and liberation strugglers. Who is more daring than you in spilling the blood of strugglers and accusing them of terrorism? You alone are killing them. Even Israel has failed to take revenge on them. You alone have killed in the name of liberation. Now you are killing them in the name of the peaceful solution. You are always right as long as you are a Jew, as Rabin testifies on your behalf. The accursed hypocrites will believe you. But the Palestinian people will not believe you. The Hebron inhabitants will stone you as they stone Zionist settlers and soldiers. You are nothing but a collaborator who facilitates the Zionists' crimes and legitimizes their terrorism. History will judge you as a Jew who infiltrated the march of struggle and then sold the people at the altar of lust and ambition.

Buwayz Reaffirms Position on Peace at UN

NC0210203895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has responded to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' call to Syria and Lebanon to abandon their hesitation and raise the level of their negotiations with Israel.

In his address to the UN General Assembly this evening, Minister Buwayz pointed out that it is clear so far that it was Israel that undermined the peace process and voided it of all meaning, at least with regard to the Syrian and Lebanese issues.

Buwayz added: We joined the Madrid process on clear and specific foundations, including UN Security Council Resolution 425 in connection with the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and also on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 in connection with the comprehensive peace process. Throughout 13 rounds of negotiations held in Washington and elsewhere Israel has consistently refused even to mention Resolution 425. At the same time Lebanon held firmly to its position that the discussion of Israeli withdrawal from the south should be conducted on the basis of Resolution 425.

Minister Fattush Remarks on Non-Lebanese Cited

NC3009103595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
12 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shtawrah—As part of the Zahlah tourist festival being held under the auspices of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Tourism Minister Nicholas Fattush opened the "Old Antiques Market" in Hawsh al-Umara' in Zahlah yesterday. [passage omitted]

Addressing the ceremony, Fattush said: We collect history and civilization but we do not need to collect waste, be it toxic waste or human waste [nifayat bashariyah]. They [not further specified] want to change Lebanon's face but we tell them to go back from where they came and break the law there. The law is tailored to the Lebanese, not non-Lebanese.

He added: It is impermissible for some leaders to negotiate, roam freely, revel, abandon their nationals, and throw them like garbage into any country to settle them there and change that country's demographic character.

He concluded: Not in the name of amity or in the name of humanity are we prepared to tell anyone "welcome." We tell our kin: This country is ours and will remain ours.

Fatah Colonel Responds to Fattush Comments

NC0310115495 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
29 Sep 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian refugee camps staged a strike yesterday to protest the Taba accord and denounce the recent [Lebanese Government] measures against Palestinian deportees from Libya. AL-NAHAR's correspondent in Sidon reports that the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp witnessed an all-out strike in response to the urging of the "Alliance of Palestinian Forces" and the "Popular Committees." Gunmen and youths from the "Fatah" dissident movement led by Colonel Munir al-Maqdah burned tires at the entrances to the camp and set up roadblocks. [passage omitted] Colonel al-Maqdah described the recent decision issued by Interior Minister Michel al-Murr [regulating the entry of Palestinians into Lebanon] as a decision made by "scoundrels" [Zu'ran]. He said "the continuation of such rancorous measures will detonate a revolution like the 1967 revolution." He described the government as "vindictive because it has not denounced these measures." He said: "We say to those who are near and far that we adhere to our weapons. We will not drop these weapons until the removal of occupation and the return of our people to their homeland. We will answer all hatemongers from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Michel al-Murr and his cronies. We will not allow the likes of (Minister Nicholas) Fattush to continue living, because our people offer sacrifice, have their dignity, and do not accept being called "human waste." [passage omitted]

Fatah Colonel Prosecuted

NC3009193895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1850 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 30 Sep (MENA)—The Lebanese state has begun legal proceedings against Palestinian Colonel Munir al-Maqdah, a Fatah dissident. He is being charged with slandering the Lebanese Government and making death threats, particularly against Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr and Tourism Minister Nicholas Fattush.

The charges against al-Maqdah, issued by Beirut's Appeals Court Prosecuting Judge Nadim 'Abd-al-Malak, state that the threats he made are criminal offenses punishable by up to three years' imprisonment.

Al-Maqdah recently held a news conference at 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon. He said that "the Lebanese Government is full of grudges," adding that "we will respond to the traitors and haters."

He attacked Michel al-Murr and Nicholas Fattush by name.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 30 September in a related report adds: "Judge 'Abd-al-Malak referred the brief to Beirut acting Prosecuting Judge 'Abdallah Bitar, asking him to issue all necessary summons, up to and including a remand order. Judge Bitar will begin the pertinent legal procedures on Monday (2 October)."]

Hizballah Denounces Israeli 'Usurpation' of Land

LD3009222595 Tehran IRNA in English
2123 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept. 30, IRNA — The Lebanese Hizballah in a statement here Saturday severely condemned, the new Zionist usurpation of land in South Lebanon.

Hizballah stated that the new usurped land was under the endowment of the Maronite tribe, adding that such a transgression clearly shows the expansionist policy pursued by the Zionist regime.

The statement read that the usurpation of the Maronite land is a clear transgression to the the Lebanese territorial integrity and its independence.

It went on to say that the Zionists have proved beyond all reasonable doubt that their move for promoting peace in the region is but an empty claim. It adds that the Zionist motive is to deceive the world public opinion.

The statement has invited all the national and Islamic forces to mobilize arm-wise to prepare themselves to fight the Zionists to reclaim all the lost rights from the usurpers.

The statement concluded by saying that the Islamic resistance forces will continue to defend the honor and respect of the Lebanese nation with full devotion, dedication and loyalty.

The Maronite endowment has announced that they are not prepared to give in even an inch of the land to the Zionist occupying forces.

Phalangist Party Rejects Tenure Extension

NC0210105595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah reiterated the party's rejection of the extension of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term of office. Speaking at a news conference today he said the presidency is a state post and not a heirloom belonging to a particular person. He added that those most active in demanding an extension to the Christian Maronite president's term have little support in the Lebanese arena in general and no support at all in the Christian and Maronite area in particular. [passage omitted]

The Phalangist Party appealed to the president to take a public and clear stand on the issue of the presidential elections and to put an end to the arguments by rejecting the extension of his term in office, imposing the constitutional date for the elections, and paving the way for ambitious and capable candidates so that the elections will mark a new and promising era instead of relying on the stagnation that is threatening this homeland. [passage omitted]

Radio: Nation Not Governed by Time Factor

JN2909153195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 29 Sep (SANA)—In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Syria is not governed by the time factor. It will not expedite, under any circumstances, boiled solutions which undermine security, rights, and sovereignty, and which do not meet its legitimate demands of the full return of all the occupied territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The paper clarifies: Syria's stand and priorities are not based on nervousness. Neither do they proceed from dictating impossible conditions, but this is because the basics of peace begin with liberation and withdrawal.

The paper says: All that Israel has achieved in terms of deals and agreements on this or that track did not bring the aspired peace and stability to the region. The achievement of this necessitates a resolute diplomacy by the U.S. Administration, as well as tangible and decisive stands toward finding a way out of the existing impasse, surmounting the obstacles, and obligating Israel to redress its performance and to abide by the terms of reference of the peace process.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Unless there is a solution which guarantees the full return of the Golan and Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the other occupied Arab territories, a just and comprehensive peace will continue to be a dream and a difficult impossibility, the region will remain open to all possibilities, and the situation in the region will continue to suffer from setbacks and explosions.

Radio Views Nation's Participation in Peace Process

JN2909165395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen, In spite of the media clamor given to the Taba agreement and the large number of political leaders who attended the signing of that agreement in Washington, the general feeling of the Western and international circles was that what has been realized is so fragile, and that rendering the Middle East peace process successful is impossible without the participation of Syria and Lebanon.

This position was expressed very well by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when he accused the current U.S. Administration of negligence. He said Clinton's administration did not make enough efforts to advance the peace process on the Syrian track in return for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan. Baker warned that the agreements which were signed are facing the threat of collapse in the absence of Syria because Syria is the main player in the region.

Although current U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was quick to deny this charge, and announced that he will embark on a tour of the Middle East soon, and although Clinton said that the United States will not continue its efforts to make progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the facts of the situation were stronger than the media clamor. At the time the Taba agreement was being signed, the West Bank cities, headed by Hebron, were closed or were witnessing demonstrations to protest that agreement which largely undermined the Palestinian people's rights, headed by the right to self-determination and the restoration of their full occupied territories.

It became clear to all that peace in the Middle East is impossible to be realized through ignoring resolutions of international legitimacy, UN principles, and international law, and through concluding separate deals and partial and distorted settlements. What Syria warned against, has taken place. The separate deals did not realize peace and did not bring the region one step closer to peace, but made the situation more complicated and explosive.

Since the launching of the U.S. initiative, Syria announced that there is no alternative to just and comprehensive peace and to Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. Syria made it clear that Arabs everywhere expect the United States and the other sponsors and supporters of the peace process to make justice and to end the injustice they faced so that peace can be just, honorable, and acceptable to present and future Arab generations and so that peace will remain steadfast in face of events and changes.

Syria only demanded the full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions do not accept occupation, settlements, annexation, or changing the features of the occupied Arab territories. They emphasize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. However, Israel did not give weight to these resolutions, isolated the Palestinian party and forced it to make serious concessions, and suspended the Syrian and Lebanese tracks after it failed to force Syria and Lebanon into a situation they do not want.

With the return to talk on the resumption of U.S. efforts and the endeavor to breathe life into the suspended talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, we say here that Syria has become more convinced of the soundness of its position and has become more determined to ask Israel to withdraw fully to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Peace cannot coexist with occupation, and peace should be based on equitability [takafu']. For U.S. efforts to realize their objectives, Washington should play its role in full and implement what it had committed itself to. This requires effective pressure on Israel so that it responds to the resolutions of international legitimacy on the basis of which the U.S. initiative was launched and which was the basis of the Madrid conference. Through the real implementation of these resolutions, peace can be realized and all the parties can get their rights to land, sovereignty, and security. Any circumvention of the essence of these resolutions will be a circumvention of peace itself—just peace to which the whole world aspires.

Israel Said Adding Complications in South Lebanon

JN3009091995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN discusses Israel's designs in southern Lebanon following the recent Israeli step to confiscate Lebanese lands in Tyre and annexing them to the occupied part of the south. TISHRIN stresses that this step is nothing new. Rather, it is part of a series of expansionist steps which Israel has been making for years now.

The paper says: Israel's acts in southern Lebanon reveal damages and dangers that go beyond the artillery and missile bombardment, aggressions, the combing operations, and preventing Lebanese farmers and fishermen from getting their daily bread. This is part of a policy to terrorize and intimidate Lebanese citizens to force them to leave their land and vacate South Lebanon, and to murder and expel any one who rejects the Israeli Army patrols' orders and instructions. They do this to make it easier to confiscate the land and expand the occupied areas to implement Israeli strategic schemes to usurp the southern region and to sever it from the motherland, Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Israel is adding new complications to the already tense and complicated situation in the south by deliberately escalating the situation and driving it to the point of explosion.

The paper says: Israel is mistaken if it thinks that by adopting this policy it can evade its responsibility in obstructing and not implementing Resolution 425. Lebanon — with its people, constitutional and official institutions, and national forces — is determined to continue resistance and to support its operations against the occupation troops and the agent militias in the occupied areas. When Lebanon exposes Israel's practices and the objectives it seeks to achieve through maintaining its occupation of the southern region, it is in fact exercising its natural and legitimate right to put an end to the continuing Israeli aggression against the south and the Lebanese people.

TISHRIN concludes: Therefore, it is the duty of the world community, the peace process cosponsors, and the United Nations to support the Lebanese people in their defense of South Lebanon and to force Israel to stop its flagrant savage attacks against the south and other parts of Lebanon. The resistance has not, and will not stop without ending the occupation and without a genuine, serious, and immediate implementation of Resolution 425, which calls for the Israeli troops' unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Daily Says Peace Requires 'Removal of Occupation'

JN0110165695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Peace Can Only Be Achieved In Accordance With International Legitimacy," AL-BA'TH says it is known that Israel's acceptance of and participation in the Madrid conference was insincere. Israel's intention was to drag Arab parties into partial deals that would divert the peace process from its solid track and enable the Israeli negotiator to conclude agreements which only recently were an Israeli dream. This was the case in Oslo-1 and Oslo-2 agreements and the Wadi al-'Arabah agreement.

AL-BA'TH continues: This policy has been successful in the aforementioned agreements not thanks to Israel's skill, but to the other parties' acceptance and voluntary submission to them.

AL-BA'TH believes that this policy will not be successful on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks because of the two countries' firm pan-Arab stand which represents the Arab nation's desire for a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH says that the Syrian-Lebanese position on the peace process has won world support and will remain the focus of appreciation and respect.

AL-BA'TH stresses that a just and comprehensive peace is a regional as well as an international demand that cannot be realized without Syria and Lebanon. What is demanded by Syria and Lebanon is demanded by the world, which is looking forward to the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the international legitimacy. Any agreements not based on those resolutions are defective and cannot bear the seeds of life.

TISHRIN discusses the Syrian role and the principles of peace. It says: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington to discuss the peace process and what is required to resume the negotiations on the Syrian track. In this regard, U.S. Bill Clinton stressed his commitment to making every effort to advance the peace process on the Syrian track.

TISHRIN continues: A just, comprehensive peace requires the activation of the Syrian track and response to the requirements of this track according to the principles of the international legitimacy.

TISHRIN explains that the factors and elements of a just and comprehensive peace that ends the occupation must be based on equitable [mutakafi'ah], balanced [mutawazinah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements according to the UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria has responded and continues to respond to the call of peace, for peace for it is a strategic option.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria will continue to adhere to its sound policy of insisting on a just, comprehensive peace and the principles and bases of such peace.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the peace process and the required efforts. It says that the call for a just, comprehensive peace is not an Arab or Syrian invention. Rather, it is an objective requirement and a genuine reflection of the will of the international community according to international legitimacy, UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The U.S. Administration is aware of the importance of a just, comprehensive peace and the achievement of security and stability in the interest of the peoples of the region and the world. It is also aware of the importance of the role of Syria and consequently Lebanon in the achievement of peace, which is impossible without Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This awareness, accompanied by the role of that of a full and impartial partner, requires action to quickly remove the Israeli obstacles and traps planted on the road to a just, comprehensive peace. If this is achieved, then one can talk about success in the efforts to resume the talks on the Syrian track.

AL-THAWRAH says that the root of the problem is occupation. The removal of the problem in the region, the paper says, lies in the removal of the occupation and in security arrangements that are based on parallelism [tawazi], equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], in addition to all the objective aspects of peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria will continue to support the U.S. efforts to boost the peace process. While responding to these efforts, however, Syria will not compromise its national and pan- Arab principles and will not bargain over its land and rights.

Damascus, Beirut Shun Israeli Peace 'Gimmicks'

JN0210184095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the unacceptable Israeli policy of blackmail, which it has been using since the Madrid conference. TISHRIN notes Israel has used this policy with various Arab parties, but has had success only with two. This policy has failed with Syria and Lebanon.

The paper adds: Syria has repeatedly made clear that it will not abandon a single inch of the Golan territory, and that it will not relinquish one of the Golan residents' rights. Syria matched words with deeds when it firmly opposed the Israeli demand for a ground station on the Golan, and insisted on the complete dismantlement of the occupation and also on security equitability [takafu'] in any of the arrangements that may be agreed upon. Lebanon took a similar stand when it shunned Israel's gimmicks and insisted on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for the unconditional withdrawal of occupation troops.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Israel's distaste for a just and comprehensive peace in the region is widely known to Syria. Syria does not rule out the possibility that Israel might be putting pressure on Washington to make it desist from putting forth any additional efforts. For from the outset, Israel has placed countless obstacles in the way of the U.S. Administration's efforts, and evaded the requirements of a just peace, chief among which is withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. Worse still, Israel has constantly sought to circumvent and obscure the resolutions of international legitimacy—hence the Oslo accord and successive pacts, the latest being the Taba accord. All of these accords are in flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which deem inadmissible the acquisition of territory by force and require Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and remove all traces of the occupation.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria has nothing to offer other than an honorable, firm peace. In exchange for peace, Syria cannot accept anything short of the restoration of all the Golan, Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June

1967 borders, and the establishment of equitable [mutakafi'ah] and mutual [mutabadalah] security arrangements that do not undermine Syrian sovereignty in the least. Israel's blackmail will not even minimally influence Syria's policy and declared position.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses Israel's disavowal of the pledges it made to the international community when the latter accepted its United Nations membership provided that it would comply with international charters and conventions and work to achieve a just and fair peace agreement with the parties it attacked and whose territories it usurped, saying: The international parties concerned about peace and sponsoring peace efforts are well aware that Israel is holding on to the occupied territories and seeking peace at the same time. Likewise, they are well aware that Syria is setting the condition of complete Israel withdrawal in exchange for peace. Since the Israeli demands are designed to perpetuate the occupation in one form or another, Syria will continue to reject them, because it deems unacceptable the perpetuation of occupation.

The paper goes on to say: Israel's security pretexts are excuses aimed at allowing it to achieve its ulterior motives. Those in real need of security guarantees are those who have been the victims of the aggressors.

Peace Plan, Israeli Position Viewed

JN0210202495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1234 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Fresh diplomatic activity is expected in the region when the U.S. secretary of state returns to it in order to break the stalemate of the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track and end its dormant state.

While being eager to see Warren Christopher succeed in his mission, our doubts about Israel's readiness to respond to the requirements of a real and just peace do not leave much room for hope that the peace process will advance in accordance with the principles adopted at the Madrid conference, and that it will take the safest, shortest, and straightest path to achieve the objective and realize a real and just peace.

No doubt, such a path passes through Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. It is not a path that takes a detour around or ignores these resolutions, or one that deviates from its course while circumventing the principles of safety and security. These principles were expressed in the U.S. initiative which calls for exchanging land for peace.

Following four years of futile negotiations and mediations that failed to save the peace process from stalemate and stagnation, is Israel expected to voluntarily stop its intransigence and adherence to its position that does not comply with the international community's will and that belittles international resolutions? The Israeli position implies defiance not only of the international community but also of the United States itself as the party that called for exchanging land for peace—particularly the Bill Clinton administration, as proof of its intention to play the role of full and honest partner in order to establish a real and just peace in the region.

By virtue of experience, we do not expect to be optimistic about the possibility of Israel abandoning its methods of maneuvering, trickery, and erection of obstacles to any effort that does not take into account Israel's eagerness to achieve gains and that does not approve of Israel's expansionist intentions and aspirations for spreading its control over the region and placing it under the Israeli zone of influence and hegemony.

It is clear that if Israel was ready to abandon the policy it pursued throughout the past four years, whether during the rounds of bilateral negotiations or regarding the international mediations, the peace process would not have faced any obstacle impeding its acceleration and would not have been derailed.

However, it seems that Israel is not yet ready to remove the obstacles and fill the gaps indicated two days ago by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process. He said these obstacles have to do with substantive issues. What are these obstacles, and where are these gaps?

No doubt, the major obstacle is represented by Israel's insistence on circumventing the substance of the conflict by overriding the Security Council resolutions and ignoring the bases and pillars of peace, which were included in the U.S. initiative.

This Israeli position continues to represent a gap between Israel and the clear Syrian position which adheres to the resolutions of international legitimacy and complies with the letter and spirit of the U.S. initiative, which calls for exchanging land for peace.

By stressing that Syria wants peace and that there is no doubt about this, Dennis Ross meant to say that the other party is held responsible for any failure to achieve the aspired real and just peace.

Perhaps, the way to achieve such peace will remain contingent upon the extent of U.S. readiness to realize the significance of the statement by James Baker, former U.S. secretary of state, who said: I do not believe that an agreement will be reached on the Syrian track unless the U.S. Administration shows sufficient firmness. It is thus a call for firmness in order to stop Israeli intransigence and prevent Israel from prejudicing the outcome of peace.

Minister Calls For Economic Cooperation With Iran

LD0110103195 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Oct 1 (IRNA) — Syrian Industry Minister [of State] Ahmad Nizam-al-din called for investments in various industrial fields from the Iranian and Syrian private sectors.

In a talk with IRNA here, Nizam-al-din said the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of assisting Syria in a number of industrial undertakings including the construction of a cement factory and in supplying various types of fire-proof bricks.

Due to arrive in Tehran today, the Syrian industry minister announced that his visit is aimed at exploring and developing fresh avenues for industrial cooperation between the two countries.

He stated that Syria is ready for any type of cooperation with Iranian production units, adding that his country is also prepared to export various types of textile products to Iran.

He believed that exchanging expert delegations between the two countries will enable Iran and Syria to become more familiar with each other's industrial potentials. He said that this is a primary necessity for commencing an all-out industrial relationship.

Meanwhile, Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, in Damascus two months ago, reviewed the means for bilateral economic ties with his Syrian counterpart.

Iranian Deputy Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Fayyaz also met and conferred with Nizam-al-din and his deputy minister in Damascus.

Two weeks ago, the Islamic Republic of Iran also put on exhibit at the Damascus International Fair a number of Iranian industrial products.

Official Receives European Medical Delegation

JN0210162895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received a European doctors' delegation participating in the meeting of the urologic surgery society and the Syrian-European conference. The delegation was led by Professor (Zetsman), president of The Hamburg School of Medicine. Comrade Dr. Yasir al-Saqqa, doyen of Syrian doctors, attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the current aspects of cooperation between the Syrian doctors and their European colleagues as well as the role of universities in consolidating scientific cooperation between both sides.

Qaddah briefed the guest delegation on developments and the achievements Syria has realized in the wake of the glorious Corrective Movement led by Ba'th Party Secretary General comrade leader President Hafiz al-Asad, particularly in the fields of higher education and health services.

Qaddah stressed Syria's eagerness to establish a just and comprehensive peace which will be a response to the principles of international law. Such a peace will also be based on international legitimacy, and it will return the lands and rights to their owners, he added.

Qaddah also explained the obstacles Israel is placing to impede the peace process. These obstacles conflict with the Security Council resolutions, he said.

Afghanistan

Spokesman Claims UN Envoy 'Secured' Cease-Fire

BK0210103995 Hong Kong AFP in English
1017 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 2 (AFP) — United Nations special peace envoy Mahmoud Mestiri left Kabul Monday [2 October] having secured agreement on a ceasefire between warring Afghan factions, an official spokesman here said.

"Mahmoud Mestiri said he had obtained the promise of the other factions for a ceasefire," Presidential press spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad told journalists.

The forces of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani are fighting two main rival factions: the Uzbeks under former communist General Abdul Rashid Dostam and the Taleban Islamic movement.

Mestiri, who met with Rabbani on Sunday, flew to northern Afghanistan on Monday for further discussion with Dostam.

In Pakistan, Dostam's spokesman Sibghatollah Zaki ruled out a ceasefire unless Rabbani resigns.

"Dostam's position remains unchanged," Zaki said.

No comments were available from Taleban.

Morad said the government wanted to establish a permanent ceasefire, but was not clear on whether Kabul required any commitments from the Taleban before such an agreement.

The Kabul government's previous position was that there would be no peace talks with the Taleban until they evacuated the three western provinces — Herat, Farah and Nimroz — captured from pro- Rabbani forces last month.

Morad said Rabbani's declaration of Jihad (holy war) against Dostam, would be lifted when and if the Uzbek general ceased fighting against the State.

He stressed that the offer of negotiations and ceasefire did not come from a position of military weakness. The pro-Rabbani troops would continue to fight if they had to, he said.

Morad said that Mestiri had not called for Rabbani's resignation during his visit.

"The transfer of power is only possible when the people's representatives come together and form a council to decide," he said.

There was no reported military activity on the two Kabul frontlines facing the Taleban to the south and west of the capital Monday.

India

Editorial Ties U.S. Vote on Pakistan to Enron

BK2809074195 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi
23 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Clinton Administration's Blunder"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although Senator Brown is receiving the credit, he is just a facade for the Clinton Administration, under whose garb its proposals reduced to smithereens its own Pressler law and resumed the $370 million in military supplies to Pakistan to create fresh military tension on the Indian subcontinent. This impudent step by the U.S. Administration will not only create unrest in the entire region, it will again sour relations between the United States and India, which only recently had begun to improve thanks to the noble counsel of some seasoned and mature U.S. diplomats.

It is not surprising that the India-Pakistan border would heat up in a war frenzy before the first consignment of the arms package offered by the United States reached Pakistan. The United States, following a proposal formulated by Sen. Larry Pressler, had banned the military supplies to Pakistan in 1985. The reason given at that time was that the Pakistan Government had failed to produce any evidence that could prove it was not making efforts to manufacture nuclear weapons. Neither could then U.S. President George Bush certify that Pakistan was making no efforts to manufacture nuclear weapons. The situation is now as it was about 10 years ago.

Now, however, there is much solid evidence available to prove Pakistan is moving ahead considerably in the direction of making nuclear weapons. It is believed that Pakistan now has 70 to 100 nuclear bombs ready. Despite these facts, the Clinton Administration has decided to give $370 million worth of military aid to Pakistan, which includes the price of the 28 F-16 aircraft that Pakistan had paid for in advance.

Worth remembering is the fact that Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, when she visited the United States in April, repeatedly insisted in Washington that either President Clinton's Administration should return the money it had received for the F- 16's, or it should send the first consignment of the supplies. Due to the fervent pleading by Pakistan's well-wishers, like Ms. Robin Raphel, the Clinton Administration had, in principle, agreed to accept Benazir's demand on the grounds of "professional ethics." During this period, when the supporters of the Pressler law suggested that the United States should sell these planes to a third country and settle Pakistan's account with the money earned from the sale, it was generally believed that the

U.S. Administration would choose to settle its conflict between professional ethics and the Pressler law in this way. Thus, Pakistan would have received its money back, and the Clinton Administration would not have felt any moral qualms.

Everything that transpired in Washington last Thursday [21 September], however, belied these expectations and registered a victory by Pakistan's lobby in the U.S. Senate. With only a margin of 10 votes, Hank Brown's proposal was passed in a most dramatic way.

An impression has formed in the background of this current phase of globalization that this issue of resuming military supplies to Pakistan is a convenient tool for the United States to twist India's arm in order to check its emergence as an economic superpower and to show India its real place. Whenever the United States discerns India's opposition to its designs, this superpower starts to threaten India under the garb of resuming arms supplies to Pakistan. U.S. actions have proven this time and again.

Although the U.S. Government has not lodged any formal protest over the Maharashtra government's scrapping of the deal with the U.S. company, Enron, and over the central government's showing its inability to intervene and set the matters right again, yet indirectly it is apparent that this was the cause of the U.S. Administration's circumventing the Pressler law and deciding to resume arms supply to Pakistan almost overnight. Otherwise, there is no reason why the U.S. Administration should have behaved so unreasonably.

It was, perhaps, for this reason that the U.S. Senate ignored the advice of its senior members, who said that the efforts for nuclear nonproliferation would lose their impetus, and the process would be slackened drastically by bringing in a new amendment to the Pressler law. Moreover, this was the very reason for placing restrictions on Pakistan in 1990. Pakistan was then flouting with impunity the limits set for ensuring nuclear nonproliferation, and that was why the United States had banned all military and economic aid to Pakistan. Now, by allowing this amendment to the Pressler law, the U.S. Administration has opened all its gates to Pakistan. This U.S. action will have an adverse effect directly on India. So, the Indian Government must gird its loins right now to face such pressures with fortitude and courage and must refrain from putting all its eggs in the U.S. basket.

Maharashtra Government Said To Renegotiate Enron

BK3009094595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra government has formally invited the Enron Group for discussions on reviving the 5000-crore rupee Dabhol power project. A letter to this effect written by the state energy secretary was delivered to Enron vice president, Mr. Sanjay Bhatnagar, in Bombay yesterday. It confirmed the state government's decision to renegotiate the 2015-megawatt gas-based project, which it scrapped last month.

Mukherjee Views Claim for Security Council Seat

BK0110065995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, says India has a valid claim to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Addressing the 50th session of the General Assembly, he said to truly reflect the expanded membership of the United Nations, developing countries must be included as permanent members.

Without naming Pakistan, Mr. Mukherjee drew international attention to Islamabad's role in fomenting insurgency in Kashmir and urged the United Nations to take strong action against all forms of terrorism. He said whether it tries to violate the territorial integrity of a country as in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, or to unseat duly constituted governments as in Afghanistan, the acts of states sponsoring terrorism are in fact acts of war.

Reiterating India's goal of a nuclear-free world, Mr. Mukherjee said the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty must be an integral step in the process of nuclear disarmament. He urged the United Nations to give top priority to development on its agenda.

Navy Reportedly To Get 'New Generation' of Frigates

BK0210043695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Navy is to be equipped with a new generation of frigates. These will replace the Leander class and Godavari class frigates now under operation in the Navy. The Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO, is developing an electronic warfare package which will improve the capability of the frigates.

Political Crisis, Violence Continue in Gujarat

BK0210093395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The political situation in Gujarat has taken a turn for the worse with reports of violent incidents coming in from Ahmadabad. Several MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] houses were attacked yesterday and wives of some legislators have lodged complaints with the police saying that their husbands have been abducted. The dissident BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Shankar Sinh Vaghela, has reportedly shifted his camp to Madhya Pradesh.

Meanwhile, the BJP President, Mr. L.K. Advani, has reached Gandhinagar in a bid to defuse the crisis. He is meeting senior state party leaders and legislators.

Home Minister Chavan Said Harming Rao Government

95AS0465B Varanasi AJ in Hindi 31 Aug 95 p 6

[Article by Udayan Sharma: "Chavan is the Greatest Thorn For the Prime Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not for the first time that the drifting of the Central Home Minister [Chavan] has angered Sonia Gandhi or that the prime minister has faced problems due to his statements. After Sonia's trip to Amethi, Suresh Pachauri the Congress Rajya Sabha member had initiated a serious discussion on the issue of government tardiness on the Rajiv Gandhi murder case in context of Sonia's August 16 speech. But the Home Minister Shanker Rao Chavan made a strange statement. He said that, "all those documents asked for by the Jain Commission have been provided. However, certain documents which may degrade certain families cannot be given to the Commission." This statement is surprising and teases Sonia Gandhi. The home minister should either openly mention those documents or name the family to be so effected or issue an apology to the nation that in future he will not issue such controversial statements.

In fact to be shrouded in controversies is Chavan's habit. He is an experienced and distinguished government leader. No one doubts his honesty and loyalty to the prime minister, party and the country. But he is not at all worthy of the home ministership. You can make him India's defense minister, human resources development minister or minister of policies. But in the home ministry he is a misfit. Under his charge the home ministry has miserably failed in its political and administrative goals. Often his statements place the prime minister in tight corners.

Basically, it is Shankar Rao Chavan that displeases Sonia Gandhi most regarding the Rao government. In 1994 Sonia Gandhi had indicated her concern on the delay on the resolution of Rajiv murder case. She was dismayed with the treatment given to the Jain Commission by the home ministry. She constantly heard that the directives given by the prime minister's office met obstacles in the home ministry. The issue at that time had gotten out of hand to such an extent that the prime minister had to go to Sonia's residence to clarify the issue for forty minutes. Justice Verma had also rebuked the home ministry. At that time Suresh Pachauri had presented certain surprising facts in the Parliament. Mr. Pachauri said in the Parliament that the Delhi High Court in its May 2, 1994 order asked the Jain Commission to investigate all documents beyond July 19, 1987. Why was the home ministry's legal counsel not willing to provide documents dated after 1987? The discussion encompassed documents dated from 1981 to 1987. Mr. Pachauri did not believe the reasons advanced by the home ministry for not making those documents available. The more interesting fact is that the home minister, during these happenings, in one cabinet meeting had tried to bring a motion to end the Jain Commission. After this dispute the prime minister had himself taken charge of the investigation.

How many times has Mr. Chavan caused problems for his own government and party? The list is long. Take a cursory look on some of the past incidents.

In a February statement made on the Kashmir issue in the Rajya Sabha he had held the ruling Democratic party of the United States responsible for the problem. The basis of his information was a research paper prepared by a group of the Republican Party. This statement had placed the Government of India in a very conspicuous position.

At the time when the demand for a separate Jharkhand was at its top, Mr. Chavan in his capacity as home minister had stated that a separate state of Jharkhand would be formed. The central government had to clarify the issue and had to rescind the statement.

The roots of most of Narashima Rao's problems are in Mr. Chavan's offices. Since December 6, 1992 the Babri Mosque issue is following Mr. Rao's government like a deadly snake. Just before that day he had assured the Parliament that to resolve the Ayodhya issue he has developed a seven systems committee. But at the emergence of the problem this seven layered system was missing. To date the home minister has not been asked about this system. Mr. Rangraj Kumarmanglam was the major advocate of those home ministry sponsored procedures.

At the time when Congress leaders were busy getting endorsements against the Sangh family [consists of Hindutva advocates Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] from the intelligentsia of the country, when they were proposing an offensive against Sangh family politics after the arrest of Madya Pradesh Chief Minister Ritambhara [as published], when the president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee Mr. Jitendra Prasad was announcing that a state committee would respond to the communal issues on the problems relating to Mathura or Ayodhya by sending its members, and when the Maharashtra Congress had decided to fight it out with the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, at that time the home minister of the Congress government was celebrating his birthday at a convention organized by the Sangh family and the Shiv Sena.

In spite of all these incidents Mr. Shanker Rao Chavan is the Congress government's home minister. This in itself is strange. That an elderly leader like Mr. Chavan kept on fighting with his junior Rajesh Pilot in the home ministry can be weird for any government. Mr. Chavan, being Rao's fellow from the school days, thinks that he can say anything he desires.

Iran

Velayati Confers With Foreign Officials in New York

Meets European Troika Envoys

LD2809123895 Tehran IRNA in English
0953 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Sep 28 (IRNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran attended the second annual meeting of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the representatives of the European Troika here Tuesday [26 September].

Present in the meeting were Velayati's Spanish counterpart, Javier Solana, and a number of representatives from France and Italy.

The first annual meeting of Iran and the European Troika was held during the 49th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The European Troika is made up of Spain, France and Italy with Spain being the present rotating chairman of the troika.

The participants were informed of the stands of the other side with a view to bring them closer.

Prior to the meeting, Velayati held a separate meeting with Solana and discussed expansion of Iran's cooperation with the member states of the European Union.

Velayati arrived here Sunday morning to attend the 50th Session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Meets Indonesian, Turkmen, Bosnian Ministers

LD2809215295 Tehran IRNA in English
2132 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, N. Y., Sept. 28, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday [28 September] separately met with the foreign ministers of Indonesia, Ali Alatas, of Turkmenistan Shikhmuradov, and of Bosnia-Herzegovina Muhamed Sacirbegovic and reviewed prospects for furthering Iran's relations with those countries.

Velayati and Ali Alatas voiced mutual pleasure with the current state of relations between Iran and Indonesia and agreed to further broaden their relations within the context of regional and international cooperation. They also reviewed prospects for cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an aid to further solidifying their regional relations.

The foreign minister of Turkmenistan, Boris Shikhmuradov, stressed the need for following up previous agreements with Iran within the context of ECO, incluiding a shipping project, and an airline service between member states of ECO.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Muhamed Sacirbegovic, here Thursday briefed the foreign minister of Iran on the present situation in Sarajevo, and appreciated Iran's support for Bosnia-Herzegovina. They also exchanged views on the topics discussed at the Wednesday meeting of the organization of the Islamic countries and on the propositions to be brought up at the joint meeting of the two contact groups on Bosnia-Herzegovina later at the United Nations Thursday.

Meets Turkish, German, Australian Ministers

LD3009223695 Tehran IRNA in English
2055 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 30, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Friday [29 September] night held three separate meetings with his Turkish, German, and Australian counterparts.

In his meeting with Velayati, Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu expressed hope for further expansion of

Tehran-Ankara political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Regional political issues, the two countries' cooperation for supporting the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), as well as supporting Bosnian stand were also among the topics reviewed by the Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers.

In their meeting, German Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Klaus Kinkel, and Velayati called for a close cooperation between the two countries in order to study the views of Islam and Christianity.

In the meeting, Kinkel also invited Iran for taking an active part at Islam and Christianity conference which is to be held in Germany in the near future.

Attaching great importance to Iranian role in the regional affairs, Kinkel called for further relations between the European countries particularly his country with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, in the meeting between the Iranian Foreign Minister and his Australian counterpart, Gareth Evans, the two sides discussed bilateral political and economic ties.

Meets Others, Departs

*LD0310093095 Tehran IRNA in English
0659 GMT 3 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Oct. 3, IRNA — Iran's Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left new York for Tehran Monday [2 October] night winding up his 10-day visit here where he participated in the 50th annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA).

Velayati was seen off at John F. Kennedy airport by Iran's permanent envoy to the united nations Kamal Kharrazi as well as the other permanent representatives of Iran to the U.N.

Besides attending the UNGA during his stay here, Velayati took part, at the sidelines of the annual meeting, in the ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and that of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). He also participated in a joint meeting of the OIC and the Western countries' contact groups and discussed the Bosnian crisis.

The Iranian foreign minister also met with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and with the president of the 50th annual meeting of UNGA, Diago Do Amaral, and exchanged views over international and regional issues as well as the need for a reconsideration of the U.N. scheme.

Moreover, Velayati held intensive talks with his counterparts from different countries including those from the OIC and the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Earlier in the day, Velayati met with Butrus-Ghali who praised Iran's peaceful efforts to settle international problems.

The two discussed issues related to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and the reshaping of the U.N.

Referring to the issue of restructuring the U.N. Security Council, Velayati said any change at the council should take into consideration the interests and benefits of the developing countries. The idea was welcomed by the secretary general.

The Iranian foreign minister also discussed the need for holding a meeting of belligerent groups in Tajikistan to attain national reconciliation and conferred about the determination of an exact date and place for such meeting.

Referring to the issue of replacing U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia with multinational forces, Velayati stressed that such forces should also act under the U.N. banner.

Velayati and his Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi reviewed bilateral ties as well as current international developments on Monday.

The two ministers underlined the need to promote regional cooperation particularly within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

They also called for the active participation of their governments in regional and international organizations including the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was also among the major topics discussed by the two sides.

Referring to international efforts made through Islamic and Western contact groups to settle the Bosnian crisis as positive, the two foreign ministers underlined the need to preserve Bosnia's independence and territorial integrity.

They also called for a follow up of issues that were ratified during the OIC meetings in Paris and Kuala Lumpur.

The third joint meeting of the OIC and the Western contact groups is due to be held in Rabat, Maghreb, soon.

Establishment of a joint economic commission between Iran and Malaysia which is due to be conducted on

March 20, 1996 in Tehran was also stressed by the two ministers and it was agreed that Badawi pay a visit to the Islamic Republic in this connection.

Iran's sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs was underscored by Iranian foreign minister in a meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah also on monday.

On the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly session, Velayati, in a talk with the foreign minister of Kuwait, criticized the stance-taking of certain neighboring states in the southern Persian Gulf rim. He said that it is necessay to take impartial positions concerning the Iranian Persian Gulf islands in order to strengthen cooperation and to remove misunderstanding through bilateral dialogues.

Referring to the importance of good-neighborly relations among the regional states, Shaykh Sabah expressed hope that the existing misunderstanding will be settled by the two sides.

The meeting of Velayati and Shaykh Sabah also focused on the situation in the Persian Gulf region as well as on issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation.

Acceding to the point that the newly-independent ex-Soviet states are enjoying close relationship with the Islamic Republic and also with regard to the fact that the linking of these states to the Persian Gulf region is facilitated via Iran, it was scheduled that the regional cooperation among Kuwait, Iran, the Central Asian republics and Caucasia be further discussed and reviewed.

According to the same report, both sides expressed their agreement in principle over the matter and for Iranian and Kuwaiti experts to study and review the issue in detail.

Separately, Velayati met Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski and discussed about mutual ties, expansion of bilateral political and economic cooperation as well as the formation of a joint economic commission beween Iran and Poland.

In consideration of the sound ties existing between the two countries, Velayati and the Polish foreign minister expressed their interests in having deeper and more extensive relations in various political and economic fields.

Bartoszewski expressed the hope of visiting Tehran in the near future.

Velayati Addresses OIC Conference in New York

LD0310062795 Tehran IRNA in English 0554 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 3, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati requested the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in its minsterial meeting here Monday [2 October] that the OIC make an effort to ensure that free and fair elections are held in Bosnia-Herzegovina as soon as the refugees and displaced Bosnians return home.

He also recommended that war criminals be delivered to the war crime tribunal, the respect for human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina be guaranteed, and that the Bosnian Serbs be given the same status and rights as those of the non-Serb population of Kosovo, Sanjank, and Vojvodnia.

"As far as the peace enforcement mechanism is concerned," said Velayati, with reference to Bosnia-Herzegovina, "we firmly believe that the United Nations should have the final say in the operations, and any arrangement in this regard should have the clear endorsement of the Security Council. Moreover the international force must include a meaningful number of troops and the active participation of Islamic countries both in its body and its command structure. Needless to say, all member states willing to do so must be able to actively participate in this new force."

Referring to the situation in occupied Palestine, he said,"Israel does not believe in peace and follows its own agenda. We firmly believe that until all rights of the Palestinian people are fully realized, the Islamic ummah should support the Palestinian cause and call for the return of all refugees to their homeland and the liberation of all occupied territories."

The Iranian foreign minister continued by saying, "the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan resulting from the regrettable and unjustifiable fratricide has been a source of great concern to my government. The continuation of this situation has not only caused the suffering of innocent poeple in that country but has also threatened peace and stability in the region."

"We have repeatedly called upon all parties to cease hostilities and show their flexibility and good will for the sake of their people, their country, the region and Islamic solidarity. We have been in contact with the government and all Afghan groups as well as the United Nations and the OIC, in order to put an end to the fighting and bring about a just solution to the crisis in Afghanistan. We firmly believe that all our efforts should be solely directed in helping the government and various groups in Afghanistan to find a solution through negotiations and not through the vicious cycle of war," Velayati further stated.

"In Tajikistan, we have fortunately witnessed some positive steps in the peace process. the Islamic Republic of Iran, through its good offices and continuous contacts with both parties, has played a very constructive role in this process and will continue to do so. We hope that the parties concerned could seize the moment in order to reach the final settlement of their dispute," he said.

The Iranian official also expressed hope that the Muslim nations would be able to further realize their potentials in order to cope with their common problems and difficulties, to preserve Islamic values and promote the national interests of all members.

Citizens' Anger Over U.S. 'Plots' Seen Increasing

LD3009074895 Tehran IRNA in English
0725 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA — The English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' accused Washington of ignoring all international norms by covertly and overtly spying on other countries and meddling in their international affairs in order to impose its political will.

In a commentary, published in its Saturday issue, the daily said that as a result, the list of anti-human crimes of the U.S., particularly those against Iran, was expanding.

It wrote that U.S. President Bill Clinton was calling on all western countries not to trade with Iran by citing baseless and unsupported charges against the Islamic republic.

And now, it added, a U.S. military commander, General J.H. Binford [Peay] who was in Bahrain last Tuesday, said that his country was 'closely monitoring the development of Iran's military capabilities and any weapons of mass destruction in the region.'

"Recently, we also had a report that the U.S. has allocated some dlrs. 13 million for covert activities against Iran and Iraq including a disinformation campaign," divulged the commentary.

IRAN NEWS continued by writing that such reports aggravated the anger felt by Iranians who are now demanding that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's administration take appropriate measures against the spy network of Washington that is directed against Tehran.

"It is really strange that the U.S. is accusing Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons while international inspectors visited Iranian nuclear facilities several times and certified that they are for peaceful purposes only," the daily objected.

The newpaper further said that the average Iranian believed that there was a limit to everything and the U.S.' anti-Iran actions seemed to know no bounds.

It added that the White House was exerting pressure on the West, Russia, China, India, Japan and other countries to isolate the Islamic republic.

"Why? because Islamic Iran, unlike the Shah's regime before 1979, refuses to bow before the hegemony of the United States. Iran will never do so in the future," emphasized the daily.

In its concluding pragraph IRAN NEWS notified the U.S. that Iran was not alone and while its sympathizers would not hold the American public responsible for the crimes of its leaders, they would definitly retaliate against the anti-Islamic plots of Washington.

It added that in such situations, the U.S. should not label the sympathizers of the Islamic republic as 'terrorists,' 'radicals,' or 'hijackers.'

Nateq-Nuri Criticizes U.S. 'Expansionism'

LD0210135395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri met with the deputy speaker of the Spanish Senate this morning. During the meeting Nateq-Nuri referred to U.S. expansionism in the world and said: The fact that the United States feels that the European countries must obey is humiliating to the European Community.

The Majles Speaker added that the Islamic Republic of Iran stands up to U.S. expansionism, and when we say the West, we distinguish between Europe and the United States. We believe in the expansion of ties with Europe.

The Spanish deputy speaker also explained his country's stand on various international issues and said: Spain, which holds the presidency of the European Community, is trying to resolve the problems and difficulties that face the community. He added that Spain follows its own independent stands on international and regional issues.

Army Chief of Staff on Combating U.S. 'Threat'

NC3009205795 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
24 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We are ready to send the necessary forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina immediately if the United Nations were to make such a request.

Major General Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Army Staff made the above statement in an interview with an ETTELA'AT correspondent, adding: Our armed forces have been organized and are motivated and trained so that, upon orders from the commander-in-chief of the combined armed forces, we can do anything necessary. We have no problems in this regard. [passage omitted]

In assessing U.S. military moves in the Persian Gulf, the chief of Joint Army Staff stated: The United States has specific objectives and motives in the Persian Gulf—that is, multifaceted support for the so-called peace process in the Middle East. It is pressuring the Arab countries of the region to officially recognize the usurpist Jerusalem regime and to ensure that the pipelines and convoys of oil from the region continue to go to the West and the United States. The plunder of the God-given wealth and resources of this region through its presence in this sensitive and strategic region of the world is among the ultimate objectives of the United States.

He added: In order to archive this, the Americans are trying to capitalize on the weak points of the regional countries and to sow discord among them. They depict Iran as a threat to all the littoral Persian Gulf countries and to its neighbors in order to promote their own interests. The circumstances of the Iraqi regime provided a suitable pretext for the U.S. military presence and moves in the Persian Gulf. The Americans have sought the make the most of these opportunities by dispatching swarms of troops to the region.

He continued: This domineering U.S. attitude toward the Persian Gulf region poses immense dangers for the region, its security, and also for all the countries of the world. The coolness of the Europeans and Japanese toward the United States regarding the economic embargo against Iran can be viewed in this context. Most of the regional countries admit the danger of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and believe that the long-term presence of U.S. military forces in the region is harmful to their national security. Unfortunately, they have not said this openly nor taken any obvious steps in this regard.

Asked if the United States can be considered a military threat to us and in the event there are any military incidents what is the extent of our armed forces' readiness, Major General Shahbazi said: Right at the outset of the magnificent victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the serious danger it posed to U.S. interests in the Middle East and the world, the U.S. hostility, animosity, and activities against the revolution began. Even now this continues in the form of subtle pretexts and political, economic, and cultural ploys. Therefore the United States is considered the archenemy of the Islamic Revolution and ourselves. This vendetta and animosity is not hidden from anyone. Hence, the U.S. threats and hostility toward Iran are of foremost importance. Combating this threat should be our priority in all matters.

Referring to this longstanding U.S. hostility and its the record of inimical acts against Iran and the U.S. failures in the political, cultural, and economic fields, he said that it was obvious that the extensive U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf should be considered an overt threat to us. He added: However in the event of a military incident, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran—with their experience in eight years of holy defense, along with their current capabilities and the valuable backing of popular mobilization—will be able to counter any kind of threat. It is also possible that the U.S. military presence is itself one of the U.S. objectives. But a military confrontation by these forces with Iran would be counter to U.S. interests in the region and ultimately would be to their disadvantage.

He explained: This is because the United States or some country incited by it may be able to begin a military conflict but it will not be strong enough end it. They tried it in the eight years of holy defense and now they know better. This is because only Muslims believe that "Whether we kill or are killed, we are the victors." Others do not think this way.

Rafsanjani Calls For Proper Defensive Structure

LD2809154995 Tehran IRNA in English
1427 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 28 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Thursday [28 September] Iran should enjoy a proper defensive structure to protect the banner of Islam in view of the political and ideological status of the Islamic Republic and the growing covetousness and wrath of the enemies against Iran.

In a meeting with the officials of the defense ministry, the president said despite eight years of the unequal imposed war and all sorts of conspiracies, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now capable of producing the main equipment of the armed forces inside the country. He added that the enemies are well aware of Iran's defensive strength.

President Rafsanjani paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of the armed forces and said the defense ministry taking advantage of the valuable experience of the sacred defense, has undertaken the key task of bolstering the defensive capability of the country. The efficient and skilled personnel of the ministry are considered as a great asset for the armed forces.

Elsewhere in his address, President Rafsanjani said the defense ministry has also played a key role in increasing industrial output of the country and producing consumer goods and non-military industrial items. It has also made a significant contribution to the services sector, he added.

The president expressed hope that with greater involvement of military technology in implementation of national and industrial projects including production of equipment for irrigation under pressure, will help the country become self-sufficient in food production.

Before the president, Minister of Defense and Logistics, Mohammad Foruzandeh, presented a report on the achievements of his ministry in military industries.

'Unsuccessful' Outcome of Ciller-Yilmaz Talks Viewed

NC2909160995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary: "The Unsuccessful Meeting Between Ciller and Yilmaz"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks yesterday [27 September] between True Path Party [DYP] leader Tansu Ciller and Motherland Party [ANAP] leader Mesut Yilmaz on the establishment of a new coalition failed to yield results. Ciller held talks with Yilmaz on the establishment of a new coalition following the collapse of the Coalition Government of the DYP and the Republican People's Party [CHP]. Yilmaz pressed for early elections and said that ANAP should control the ministries of finance, foreign affairs, energy and natural resources, public works, development and housing, and justice. He asserted that all the economic organizations, particularly the Central Bank and the Treasury, must also be under ANAP control. The observers have said that it was difficult for the leading DYP officials to agree to Yilmaz's demands. They also said that Yilmaz's demands would weaken the DYP and Ciller's economic programs if the two parties established a coalition. Tansu Ciller hopes her economic programs will help her achieve a favorable outcome in the next elections.

Meanwhile, Ciller's opponents have accused her government of failing to fulfill its promises. They have said that the people have significantly suffered because the rate of inflation has steadily increased and unemployment has become widespread. They believe that the dissatisfaction of the people will create many problems for the administration and the regime in Turkey. Several circles believe that the government must withdraw to pave the way for general elections.

Considering existing conditions, ANAP officials have welcomed Ciller's rejection of Yilmaz's demands. They believe the party can gain from contesting the next elections without establishing a coalition with the DYP.

Meanwhile, Ciller seems to believe that she can establish a minority government. She also believes that the opposition parties do not have the strength they need to secure a no-confidence vote against her in the National Assembly. Can she achieve success? The political observers believe that Ciller is confident that she can avoid a no-confidence vote because the major opposition parties in the National Assembly, that is ANAP, CHP, and the Welfare Party, do not have the required 226 votes in the parliament.

Minister Announces Deadline for Election Candidates

LD0110170695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of interior announced that the necessary ground is prepared to hold free and impartial general elections for the 5th round of the Islamic Majles.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati said: Those people, whose nominations to the elections depend, according to the law, on their resignation from official posts have until tomorrow, 10 Mehr [2 October], to do so.

The minister of interior said that the registration for those who want to be elected as Majles deputies would begin in four months time, that is 10 Bahman [31 Jan 1996], and will continue until 16 Bahman [5 February].

The elections to the 5th round of the Islamic Majles will be held on 18 Esfand [8 March 1996].

IRGC's Thar-Allah Opens New Headquarters

LD2809171495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of staging the Zolfaqar urban maneuver, in the course of a ceremony held this morning, a new site for the headquarters of Thar-Allah [Vengeance of God] of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] was opened in Tehran. The headquarters has been built on a 24 hectare plot. With its full communication and contact equipment and light and heavy logistical equipment it is prepared to defend Tehran's security, while establishing coordination and unity of command among the military and Law Enforcement Forces.

At the end of the ceremony in an interview with our correspondent, Brigadier General Safavi, commander of Thar-Allah headquarters, referred to the staging of the Zolfaqar maneuvers and said that the aim of the maneuver is to establish further coordination between people and military and Law Enforcement Forces, and particularly to increase readiness, combat capability, and rapid action in delivering assistance during unexpected incidents. He called on our country's ever-present people to participate in the ceremony tomorrow and display their cooperation with the heroic combatants of Islam.

The opening ceremony of the headquarters was attended by Major General Reza'i, commander-in-chief of the IRGC, as well as a number of high-ranking military and Law Enforcment commanders and civil authorities.

'Some 50' Battalions Take Part in 'Zolfaqar'

Tehran LEF Commander Comments

LD2809171395 Tehran IRNA in Engli
1527 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA — Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces [LEF] of Tehran, Brigadier General Yusef Reza Abolfathi, said here Thursday [28 September] that some 50 battalions of his forces will take part in 'Zolfaqar' urban maneuvers, to be launched on Friday to increase ability of the popular forces in coping with unpredicted disasters. He told IRNA that his forces are due to provide security for participants in the one-day maneuver. Some 30 inspection teams will see to it that the maneuvers are carried out in the best possible manner.

Referring to great potentials of his forces with regards to encountering natural disasters, Abolfathi underlined that some 150 coordination teams and 350 patrol units will be posted on the streets during the maneuver. Some 30,000 basij (volunteer) forces and members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps will take part in the maneuver.

Last Phase of Maneuvers Held

LD2909151295 Tehran IRNA in English
1505 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — The last phase of the great urban military maneuvers code-named 'zolfaqar' was staged here at 15:30 hours local time Friday. About 30,000 members of the basij, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the military participated in the exercises.

During the exercises the basijis and the IRGC supported by 50 battalions of the army engaged in civil defense operations over an area of about one thousand square kilometers. Popular forces stationed at more than 80 points of the city are also taking part. Helicopters have been employed for dropping paratroops and picking up ground personnel.

IRGC divisions number 100 of Seyyed-Osh-Shohada (Lord of Martyrs — Imam Hoseyn) and number 27 of Hazrat Rasul (Prophet Mohammad - sawa) supported by 50 battalions of the law enforcement authorities of greater Tehran are engaged in the operations.

The maneuvers is the first of its kind involving the basij, the IRGC and the law enforcement forces, which are all operating under the sole command of 'Thar-allah headquarters of Tehran.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Participants

LD2909185095 Tehran IRNA in English
1630 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Friday [29 September] told a group of basijis and other participants at the Zolfaqar maneuvers that following the triumph of the Islamic revolution the United States designed various plots against the Islamic Republic.

He said as the result of the alligeance of the people with the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, all the plots of the enemies were nipped in the bud. Nateq-Nuri said the United States and the big powers had imposed an unwanted war on Iran exploiting an 'imbecile person' (Iraqi president) for dividing Iran in which plot, he said, they failed.

Referring to the hijacking earlier this month of an Iranian passenger plane to occupied Palestine, he said the enemies of the Islamic revouiton were not able to take advantage of that incident.

Daily on Question of Student Political Inactivity

95LA0376D Tehran SALAM in Persian 22 Aug 95
p 2

["Special answer" to a telephone call]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the reason for the lack of student political activity, and how can students be encouraged to be dynamic?

SALAM: The society cannot be expected to be apolitical and the students to be political, unless there is a more lofty motive. In fact, the universities are considered a mirror of the political climate of the society, reflecting the direct and indirect tendencies of the society.

Prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution, criticism of policies and fighting the past regime had created the necessary political conditions for the student strata, and on that basis, the student movement was shaped in its true sense, grew, and thrived, with this stratum playing an active role in the movement as the intellectual elites of the society, and no one has so far denied this role.

Early in the victory of the revolution and following the announcement of the cultural revolution and the opportunity to determine the strategy in the universities, an opportunity was created for the students to demonstrate their role in all the various scenes. The capture of the U.S. spy nest by the Muslim students is certainly the most important glory that the student movement gained during that period, and the effective role of this stratum in advancing the goals of the movement was proven with the endorsement of Imam Khomeyni.

Certainly, under these conditions, an event could not be found in which students were not present and effective. The major, necessary institutions, such as the Guard Corps and the Jihad, were also established by the university stratum.

During the imposed war, as well, even though based on the tradition of other countries, it was expected that the existence of the political climate in the country would be considered an impediment to the progress of the war, as we witnessed, during that period, although our country did not have official political parties in the common sense, despite the heavy international climate against Iran, the existence of two opposing intellectual factors and efforts to establish the balance of forces by the leadership of the regime kept the political climate warm and dynamic. Under these conditions, too, students pursued the political issues fanatically and reacted to them. In various elections, they presented their candidates and campaigned, and even in several terms their representatives were elected to the centers of decision making.

After the war ended, perhaps since one ideological faction was pushed aside, the first candles of the student movement also burned out, because, firstly, most of the active members of this movement were affiliated with that faction, and secondly, the dynamic force of political activity, the existence of various views in the society, and the possibility of expressing them when only one faction is in power and every opposing opinion also is interpreted as opposition to the religious guardian and ultimately the Prophet and then God, is there any longer room for political activity?

In addition, during the same time, the Basijis and the revolution forces were asked to enter into economic activities, and "economic welfare" was discussed as the central motto of the government officials. In this manner, the people's attention was attracted toward affairs other than politics. Also, efforts were made to make the last symbols of the student movement (such as the march on 13 Aban [4 November]) become governmental, removing them from the hands of the students remaining from the previous generation.

Since students are a flowing stratum, they do not have permanent examples to follow. Consequently, with the passage of time and the departure of the old and the coming of the new, the mood of this stratum at any moment depends on the new generation. Unfortunately, in the new student generation, which is nurtured by the new policies, as was expected, no motive for political activity has been observed. In addition, the responsible organizations, and especially the presidents of the universities, by stating the motto that "the university is not a political club," have continuously emphasized making the universities more academic and their environment calm. As a result, in various forms, the necessary atmosphere for the creation of the ideas of the political forces has not been provided.

Under these conditions, especially with the increasing economic shortcomings, political interests have weakened with every day. And even those who had some remnants of interest in political currents have been in a dilemma as to whether to choose this or the next world. Among those who preferred the next world, some who were critical of the present climate faced various obstacles, and others expediently preferred silence to shouting.

After the severe criticism by the grand leader concerning the depoliticization of universities, some tried in form or by sending circular letters and issuing neutral instructions to vindicate themselves of the accusation and perform their duties as much as they could, but the truth is that they have not been and are not guilty. Rather, all the present conditions of the country are responsible for the lack of political activity in the universities.

The policy that is used nowadays to eliminate any sort of expression of opinions (even in opposition) is for a group to create a ruckus, shout, and even engage in assaults and insults, disrupting the unwanted sessions with ease of mind, and in this manner, the last opportunities and motives for the presence of students on the political scene is necessarily eliminated.

The response to the second question of this honorable leader will be left for later, God willing.

'Painful Realities' for Workers, Industry Viewed

95LA0376F Berlin NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 4 Jul 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] While the leaders of the regime speak daily about the "unmatched," "significant," and "astonishing" gains of the Islamic Republic in various economic arenas and claim that the Islamic Republic is "galloping" toward self-sufficiency in all arenas of production, certain reports in the licensed newspapers of the country show some of the painful realities in our society.

One of the major consequences of the destructive and anti-national regime about which we have spoken in detail before is lack of full attention to the domestic production industries and changing the country into a large, uncontrolled market for foreign consumer goods. This destructive policy has driven hundreds of production units in the country toward bankruptcy and added thousands of Iranian workers to the millions-long unemployment lines. Extraordinary corruption, unprecedented bribery, and the greed of the leaders of the regime and their agents are also among other factors, the negative effects of which can be felt in all arenas. While after the revolution many of the production units were confiscated and placed at the disposal of government institutions, with the passage of time, those institutions, especially organizations such as the "Foundation for the Oppressed," the "15 Khordad Foundation," and the "Martyrs Foundation," became like a large octopus that acts like the monopolistic capitalist companies in the national economy. Not only do they fail to give any service to the deprived and the "oppressed," but their most important duty is to fill the bank accounts of the directors, leaders, and those affiliated with the regime. The exposing of multi-billion [rial] misuses in these establishments and the survival of the large embezzlers in their own positions indicate the fact that the house is in ruins from the foundation and the wealth of the country has been placed at the disposal of the government small and large officials like the spoils of war. In the past weeks, suddenly the announcement was made that "100 industrial units under the control of the Foundation for the Oppressed are about to shut down." Engineer Mahmud Ahmadpur, the director of the Industries Division of the "Foundation for the Oppressed," who was speaking in a seminar of production management specialists the foundation in Ramsar, claimed that "in the course of the past year, so far, no foreign currency credit has been given to the foundation industries by the government." He said that this year the foundation needs $200 million in foreign currency funds. Based on the same report, the industries of the "Foundation for the Oppressed" produce 20 percent of the sugar, textiles, clothing, and tires and 18 percent of the household appliances of the country.

Considering these explanations, it is clear that the bankruptcy of 100 production units will result in the unemployment of a large group of workers in the country, most of whom under the present conditions have no prospects to find another job.

Moreover, in the recent weeks, a new wave of workers' protests occurred in the production centers of the country. The reason for the workers' protest was the recent announcement of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, on the basis of which the announcement was made that "work continuation contracts do not mean employment." Based on this report, Mohsen Taqizadeh, the executive secretary of the Workers' House of Qazvin Region, announced in an interview that "based on this announcement, the continuation of work contracts lack special employment commitment and thus has increased the number of cases sent to the arbitration committees by 25 to 40 percent.... The issuance of the announcement has caused the elimination of job security for workers with two to three years of work history, and most managers have engaged in dismissing this group of workers" (SALAM, 24 Khordad 1374 [14 June 1995]).

In previous issues of NAMEH-YE MARDOM, we pointed out that the collective dismissal of the workers of the production centers of the country continues, and conditions worsening every day for the Iranian workers. The bad economic situation, the actual drop in the income level of laborers, the unprecedented and backbreaking high prices, and the lack of a nationwide social security system, along with the anti-national and anti-worker policies of the administrative organization of the Islamic Republic, have condemned millions of Iranian workers to a dark and difficult fate. Freedom from these conditions is only possible by escalating the coordinated struggle of all workers and joining these struggles with the general struggle of the people against the regime of "religious guardianship."

Several Qods Store Merchants Reportedly Dismissed

95LA0373C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—Following the publication of an interview with a number of Qods [Department] Store merchants on 17/03/1374 [7 June 1995], these individuals were dismissed by the general manager and some of the department licensing officials.**

According to this report, in the interviews it was announced that the rental fees of some of the departments have increased from 370,000 rials [R] to R900,000 and even R1 million this year. Unfortunately, the general manager of the Qods chain stores, instead of providing the people with documented explanations about these increases, which are not in conformity with the new government policies, dismissed these individuals.

Afshin Haji Reza Beyk, who had a shop in the Qods Central Store for nearly three years, says: Following the publication of the interview, we were told that Mr. Hoseyni, the general manager of the Qods Store, had ordered our shops to be closed.

It should be remembered that lack of open-mindedness among managers, who are unable to defend their decisions and their reactions to individuals who upon the request of the reporter have truthfully responded to the question, can create the grounds for stifling in the country and show the low cultural level of these individuals in dealing with the issues and problems of the society.

Hoseyni, the general manager of Qods Store, said in this connection: Because these individuals lied, it resulted in reactions from us. We dealt with them and we no longer want them to have shops.

In response to the question, "If what was said was false, why did you not send explanations to be published?" He did not give a satisfactory reply and pointed out: I say it so they respond.

It should be pointed out that about two months have passed since the publication of the interviews.

Afshin Haj Reza Beyk said: Three people expressed opinions in this interview, and the shops of all three were closed. No one in the management of Qods Store will respond to us. We asked Mr. Rafiqdust, under whose supervision these stores operate, to investigate the matter.

He emphasized: When we went to the office of Mr. Hoseyni, the general manager of Qods Store, his office manager said to us: "You raised questions about Qods, and for this reason your shops were closed. These shops will not be reopened, and you can do whatever you wish."

But we did not have any such intentions and had only told the truth in response to the reporter's question.

He added: Mr. Seyyed 'Aziz Hoseyni-Rostami, one of the officials of Qods Store, also did not agree to listen to us and only said, "Why do you open your mouth and say whatever you want?"

Article Says Only 60% of National Water Used

95LA0373B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—At the present, only 60 percent of the 140 billion cubic meters of available water in the country is being utilized.**

According to a report by HAFTEHNAMEH-YE KHABARI, Engineer Gholamreza Manuchehri, the deputy minister of energy and general director of the National Water and Sewage Engineering Company, made this statement and said: The average annual precipitation is 250 mm, which is not equally distributed. For example, in Bandar Anzali, it is 1,500 mm.

On the other hand, about 65 percent of this amount of precipitation evaporates. In fact, the amount of precipitation that comprises underground and surface waters in the country is on the average 100 mm.

He said: The conservation and best use of water must become widespread, and in order to prevent the waste of water, the equipment used, such as faucets, must be appropriate. Also, industries that pollute less must be developed in the country.

Fluctuation of Currency, Gold Reported

95LA0373A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—In the past two months, after the implementation of foreign currency rate stabilization and the decrease in the approved price of some goods priced by the government, the price of Bahar-e Azadi coins and gold also began to decline and in mid-Tir [July] reached the lowest rate in nearly seven months.**

Based on a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, in the last week of Tir [15 July-22 July], the declining trend in the price of coins and gold stopped in the market, and even within a few days the price of gold coins increased by 8,000 rials [R], and the price of each official and old gold coin reached R9,000 and R42,000. Of course, in recent days, the prices have declined somewhat.

In this connection, Zarinnegar, the owner of a jewelry store in the Tehran Grand Bazaar, said in an interview with our correspondent: The price of gold depends on the price of the dollar. Whenever the price of the dollar increases in the market, the price of gold also increases. For example, when the dollar reached 720 tumans, the price of a gram of gold also reached 7,000 tumans, and when the price of the dollar dropped to 300 tumans, the price of gold also decreased by the same ratio and dropped to 3,050 tumans.

In continuation, he added: The government must be more serious in its action and in controlling the rate of foreign currency. Otherwise, the price of gold will not be stable either.

Another jeweler in the bazaar told our reporter: The main reason for the fluctuation in the price of gold is supply and demand in the market. Anyone who has some savings buys coins and gold to protect his money, and this causes an increase in demand, and consequently the price also increases.

He added: Following the government measures to deal with the coin and foreign currency dealers and the decline in prices, fearing the drop in prices, people began to sell. This resulted in a severe decline in prices, but again, due to the decline in prices and the ending of the months of Moharram and Safar, the gold market has begun to thrive.

In continuation, he said: The main cause of this problem is the existing cash flow in the hands of the people, which must be collected and used for construction and production in the country.

He emphasized: We hope the price of gold will stabilize, no matter at what level, because otherwise it will be impossible for us to continue our work.

In conclusion, he added: During the half hour that you were here, the price of gold increased 200 tumans per mesqal [five grams] and coins about 300 tumans.

According to our correspondent's report, the latest prices of coins and gold in the Tehran market yesterday afternoon (Monday [24 July]) were R41,000 for one gram of 18-carat gold; old-design coins, R440,000; and new design coins, R380,000.

Pakistan

Minister: 'Solid Proof' of Indian Role in Karachi

BK2509044295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Sep 95 pp 1, 11

[Report "from our correspondent": "Solid proof of Indian hand behind Karachi situation: N.D. Khan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abbottabad — Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Professor N D Khan has said that Sindh government has got solid proofs of Indian involvement in terrorists activities in Karachi to avenge as he put it indigenous freedom movement of Kashmiris. He said that govt has successfully controlled the situation in Karachi to some extent and peace would return to this city within next few months. He also said that govt could continue to keep its door open for dialogue with Altaf Group.

Addressing as the chief guest at programme "focus" arranged by Abbottabad Union of Journalists at Frontier House here on Saturday [23 September] the Federal Law Minister who is also the leader of the govt negotiating team, with Altaf Group, reiterated his offer to hold local bodies polls within six months if the peace is returned to the port city of Karachi. He was very much optimistic about the dialogue which was initiated with Altaf Group on July 11 this year and added that the 10th round of the parleys would start on September 26.

N D Khan while criticising Altaf Group team regretted that despite the fact that in the 9th round of talks govt had decided to give certain concessions to Altaf Group including release of prisoners, bail of some Altaf Group activists, and transfer of certain officials. Altaf Group decided to give call for strike even when after two round were held in the very cordial atmosphere. He, however, admitted that third round of the 9th session was held in tense situation.

While responding to a query regarding the fear of possible deadlock of the dialogue with Altaf Group, he remarked that like past he would wait for the negotiation team of Altaf Group and hoped that they would return to the negotiation table as they had in the past.

He also alleged that some of the eveningers from Karachi were involved in deteriorating Karachi situation as according to him they were involved in spreading panic and creating harassment merely to increase their circulation. He said the strike call given by Altaf Group was to destroy the national economy but at the same time he maintained that strikes in Karachi have also faded down as people of Karachi are fed up by the strikes of every day. He asked the leadership of Altaf Group to call off the strikes calls as he declared that govt would not succumb to these pressure tactics by Altaf Group and added that these strike would serve no purpose. He said that he talked to the leader of the negotiation team of Altaf Group Ajmal Delhvi and asked him to continue negotiation process and end the strike call. He observed that only table talks would resolve the Karachi issue.

The Federal Minister said that credit goes to the present govt that it restored peace in the parts which were earlier considered "No Go" areas. He added that there was a time when police station used to close at dusk just because of the fear of terrorism. Today, he said that there is not a single "No Go" area in Karachi and govt has also restored the confidence and credibility of the police with the help of the rangers.

Referring to the speaker of the national assembly remarks in which he observed that "promulgation of the ordinances was a bad omen for the parliament", he said that he fully agreed with the speaker on this point. He added that PPP [Pakistan People's Party] govt does not wish to make legislation through ordinances instead he claimed that govt was interested to legislate in the parliament. He attributed the promulgation of the ordinance to the delaying tactics of the opposition in national assembly by saying that most of the time of the house is wasted by the opposition members by raising points of orders and their non serious attitude towards legislation.

Responding to the Rule 90 to which Speaker Yousaf Raza Gilani referred to as "Pakistan is the only country to have this rule", the minister of law offered that rules of business and procedure could be changed only after opposition agrees and after developing complete consensus.

Earlier, the law minister addressed the lawyers in district bar room. The function was presided over by Fazle Haq Abbasi president DBA [District Bar Association] Abbottabad. The Federal Law Minister said that PPP govt was sincere to separate Judiciary from executive and expressed his hope that this would be done within the tenure of this govt. He said that in this connection govt was facing some difficulties from certain provinces who moved to Supreme Court in this regard. He said that though the decision was deferred for the time being but added that soon a meeting of all the four governors and the chief ministers of the provinces would be held in this regard, but he did not confirmed the date of the meeting. He announced a sum of Rs [rupees] two lakhs for DBA.

President Claims 'Definite' Karachi Improvement

BK0210135995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that far-reaching and serious efforts were being made to redress the law and order problem of Karachi by adopting various means. Talking to journalists at the Governor House in Karachi today, the president said the present government is seriously tackling the law and order problem, a step taken for the first time during the last 15 years. Elaborating his point, the president said through political means, the government is keeping the doors of dialogue open in order to achieve meaningful results. He said due to steps taken, there was a definite improvement in the law and order situation in the last few months. Replying to newsmen's questions, the president said stern action is being taken against those personnel who are reported to be indulging in highhandedness and extortion from the people.

The president also underlined the need of establishing a culture of paying taxes in the country. He said there should be more segments of the society to pay income tax.

Talking to a delegation of businessmen, the president stressed the need that every segment of the society must supplement the government's efforts to restore peace and harmony and efforts to accelerate the economic activity in the country. He pointed out that Karachi was the hub of all the economic and trade activity of the country and any disturbance in this city not only affects individuals, but the country on the whole. He reiterated that the government has kept the doors of political dialogue open with all the political elements to resolve political issues. He, however, said measures taken to combat terrorism and weed unlawful elements would continue. The president also met a delegation of notables and discussed with them various issues, in particular the law and order situation.

Sindh Government Sends Letter to UN on Karachi

BK0310040895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sindh government has conveyed to the United Nations detailed facts regarding the situation in Karachi, refuting the allegations leveled by the Altaf Group. In a letter addressed to the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, the Sindh government has said that a letter sent by Altaf Hussain is part of the smearing campaign being perpetrated by him on behalf of his masters who are indulging in worst kind of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and persecution of valiant and freedom-loving Kashmiris. The letter written by information adviser to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, said Altaf Hussain's allegations are based on totally false and baseless premise.

The letter further said that the Altaf Group from its inception was militant and terrorist in nature. Despite having had the mandate of its electorate in a sizable number, it failed to address the problems perceived as well as real on the floor of the house at any point in time. Instead, it has always promoted ethnicity, hatred, violence, militancy and terrorism.

Daily Carries Indian TV Interview With Bhutto

BK3009083795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Sep 95 p 4

["Text" of interview with Benazir Bhutto by unidentified Indian television correspondent: "PM's Interview

With EYEWITNESS"—first two paragraphs are THE NATION introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Eyewitness of India had interviewed the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for telecast on Doordarshan last month. The interview, however was not telecast by Doordarshan following the instructions from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as reported by the Indian Press.

Full recording of the interview was telecast by the Pakistan TV on 20th September, 1995. The following is the text of the Prime Minister's interview:

Q: Prime Minister, I want to start by talking to you about what is possibly the most serious problem you face at the moment in Karachi. Perhaps over a thousand people have been killed this year and although you are having talks with the Mohajir Movement, the killings are continuing. Why is Karachi failing to come under control?

A: The situation in Karachi, in a part of Karachi, deteriorated since the last ten years. But since there was no separation between politics and terrorism, the situation did not get better.

We have had some very good captures and infiltration into the terrorist movement and we believe that as the terrorists part subsides, the political side will emerge stronger.

Q: It is often said abroad and sometimes it is even said in your country that you are perhaps not seriously responding to the need to make concessions because in a sense you have a Sindhi vote to worry about as well. Do you find yourself politically shut between the Mohajirs and the Sindhis.

A: Not at all, Mohajirs and Sindhis have lived together side by side, always intermarried and Pakistan is going to be fifty years old in 1997. So, we are really all Pakistanis and there are no problems between Sindhis and settlers in Sindh. But death figures that you see are not deaths between security forces and militants these deaths are largely by the Altaf Group militants who kidnap people and kill them to death. They kidnap innocent people who are opposed to their politics and they kill them. Despite that the death rate in Karachi is lower than it is in London, sorry, lower than it is in Washington or New York. I wish I had the figures from New Delhi. I do know this much though that our police force controlling the city of Karachi is smaller than the police force of New Delhi.

Q: Prime Minister, those are, of course, in a sense political points making (PM Bhutto, they are not political points), but the issue that I was trying to tackle is the perception?

A: I would not like to make political points, I would like to clear disinformation that this is a fight between Sindhis and Mohajirs.

Q: But if you are clearing disinformation, then can I put something else to you? It is often said, both in your country and abroad, that your government is perhaps a reluctant negotiator and that it is military pressure that actually has brought you to the table to talk with the Altaf Group?

A: I find that really laughable. A political Government takes all the political decisions and it is the political Government that took the decision to have talks with the Altaf Group. But no Government can compromise on terrorism.

Q: I understand that Prime Minister, but you were clarifying disinformation for me and the point I would like you to clarify is the perception that you are negotiating under pressure from the army, is that the case?

A: I told you that is not the case. The decision to have negotiations was taken solely by the political government.

Q: It is often said that an indication of your seriousness is the fact that you have called the MQM leadership, I may be misquoting cowardly rats is the word used abroad, is that a charge that you might now want to withdraw?

A: As I have called terrorists cowardly rats, I had not called any party or any person any name, I have called the terrorists (Interviewer; so the MQM leadership are not cowardly rats), I will give you my exact speech. Four Rangers were ambushed and brutally killed and I said that those people who arranged this cowardly attack on the Rangers were cowards and they were rats.

Q: But it was not the MQM leadership you were talking about, that is a clarification you are making?

A: I have given you the exact quote. Altaf, of course, distorted my speech. But, I do not think people in Pakistan believed Altaf.

Q: What do you say to people who comment that Karachi is Ms Bhutto's make or break situation, what do you say to them?

A: Karachi is not a make or break situation either for me or for my country. But, Karachi was waiting for a Karachiites like myself, somebody who was born in Karachi, somebody who cared about Karachi, somebody whose children have to go along with other school children, to come back and to restore peace to the city of Karachi.

Q: When as a Karachiite will you be happy with the situation, how much longer, do you think, you need?

A: Well, I think that militancy needs time. I am not going to give any time space, but I will say that for the first time the message is getting through that the government is prepared to talk politically, that the government is not prepared to surrender before the use of the gun.

Q: Prime Minister, let us widen the scope of this discussion a little. As a democratically elected Prime Minister of this country, one of the issues you have to content with is relationships with the Opposition. Given the way you were treated when you were in opposition, why you, in a sense, doing the same thing to the present Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Nawaz Sharif by bringing charges of treason or corruption against him?

A: I would never dream of doing to the Leader of the Opposition what he did to my family. (Interviewer: That is how it looks to other people). I would never dream of doing to the Leader of the Opposition what he did to my family and to my political colleagues. The spouse of the Leader of Opposition is not in prison. When I was Leader of the Opposition, my spouse was held in prison for nearly two and a half years and the laws of the land were changed. Please let us now draw a comparison. I would never never act like the Leader of the Opposition did. I would think we should draw comparisons. My spouse was held for two and a half years against the law and the laws were changed. This has not happened to the Leader of the Opposition. I was tried by hand-picked judges in disqualification tribunals. The cases lodged against the Leader of the Opposition are all through normal courts. Midnights raids were conducted and friends of our family, bureaucrats, bankers, political allies were picked up trough midnight raids. Some of our people were hung upside-down, their shoulders dislocated, given electric shocks and false testimony were sought to be taken over from them. None of this has happened. Chartered accounts have sat and they have gone through the financial dealings of Mr Nawaz Sharif when he was Prime Minister. And through chartered accountant embezzlement, fraud, misappropriation, violation of banking rules, violation of financial conduct has been elicited. So, there is a world of difference between what he did to us and between what we are doing. He broke the law. We have no intention to break the law, but we do believe that corruption is a very big issue. And we do believe that Mr Nawaz Sharif took loan and made his financial empire, either as Finance Minister or subsequently as Prime Minister, Chief Minister and Prime Minister. And that is according to the law of our land.

Q: But then what you say to people who say this seems like revenge, this is vindictive, what you say to them?

A: If I had done to them what they did to us, yes, perhaps they could have said it. But since neither I nor my government have done that, no one can say it.

Q: Another issue that as a democratically elected Prime Minister you face, in a sense, it is a perennial issue that you face, is the question of relationships with the army. Given that you father's government was overthrown in 1977 and given that your own dismissal from power in 1990 was something that the military seems to have supported. Are you worried that with the present situation in Karachi and with the problems that you face with your coalition government in Punjab, the army might step in and history may repeat itself again?

A: People in Pakistan are very happy that democracy has been restored, that the Constitution is working and that all organs of Government are working in accordance with the Constitution.

Q: Then how do you explain Vice-President Al Gore saying at a Pakistani-American dinner in July in Washington that the American Government would not support a military take-over in Pakistan, how do you explain that?

A: I think you must take an interview with the Vice-President and put this question to him.

Q: Okay, then for those who are your admirers and want democracy to succeed, how would you describe your relations with the army, and in particular, with the Army Chief?

A: Like all Pakistani, I take great comfort in the fact that the Constitution is working and that all organs of the Government are working in accordance with the Constitution and that this has led to tangible benefits for Pakistan.

Q: But you have not mentioned the word army or Army Chief once in that answer?

A: Should I? The army and the Prime Minister and the Parliament and the President and the Provinces and the Judges, we all works according to the Constitution.

Q: If I were to ask you a simple question, do you have a good working relationship with the Army Chief, can you say yes and leave it to that?

A: Yes, I have great respect for the Chief of Army Staff and I have a good working relationship with the military.

Q: Let me put a comment to you that I have been reading in the Pakistani papers. They say that Ms Bhutto in her second term in office, has clearly learnt the skills of politic, she has survived brilliantly, she plays the game very well, her relationship with the army is very good. but, in the process of ensuring her survival, she has slightly forgotten about what to do with the power she has. The idealism that she once represented has now disappeared, there is only survival there. She is not building her constituency like her father did, what do you say to that sort of argument?

A: We do not care about survival. We care about principles. And that is what has enabled this Government because we are from the people and we have support from the people and we can go back to the people. That is why we can take on the narcotics barrens that is why we can take on the sectarian forces because we do not care about our survival, we care for the image that the government has. We want to go back to our people and say that for your sake, for the unity of Pakistan, for the unity of the Islamic ummah, we have the courage to take on sectarian forces. When people were busy riding with private armies in our cities, we said this intimidates ordinary people, we will not permit it. They were powerful lords who were used to doing this, but we took them on. Even in Karachi, my life is in danger, my childrens life is in danger. It would be so easy for me to say, oh, Mr Altaf Hussain, whatever happened was due to Mr Nawaz Sharif, I will accede to all your demands, just let me rule comfortably in Islamabad. But, I have not done that, my party has not done that, my government has not done that.

Q: Forgive my interruption, but the point is if you have done all this, then why is there the perception that she is not the idealist she was?

A: I consider myself an idealist, I do things and my party does things and my government does things that we believe in. We do not do things for staying in power.

Q: Are you a victim of other people's perceptions?

A: I do not know, I do not know those people about whose perceptions you speak because in every country those are two points of view. There are the point of view of your supporters and there are point of view of your opponents.

Q: The Press says she is a politician today, and a very good one, but the fire has gone out, the idealism has dimmed?

A: I do not know which Press says this. I have not send any of my friends in the Press write that the idealism has gone, I am a very idealistic person and I am a very action-oriented person. We set ourselves goals and we say we are from the people and we have to go back to the people in 1998 and when we go back to the people in 1998, we would like to tell them this is what we have done.

Q: Prime Minister, I want now turn to the subject of Indo- Pakistan relations. When you first came to office, there were high hopes that there would be a change for the better between India and Pakistan. That has not happened and many personally let down by you, how do you respond to them?

A: Well, there was a big difference between when I first became Prime Minister and when I became Prime Minister second time. In 1988, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister of India and he was of post-partition generation. He had had tragedy in his family, much as I had had tragedy in mine. And I think there was a sincere effort by both the Prime Ministers and their governments to proceed forward to solve the outstanding issues between our two countries. Mr Rajiv Gandhi never blamed us for what was going on in Kashmir.

Q: With respect Prime Minister, in his time nothing much was happening in Karachi?

A: I remember seeing a Indian documentary in June, 89 or June, 1990 which showed the upheaval and the uprising in Jummu and Kashmir.

Q: By then he was out of office, it all began during the winter of 89-90?

A: I do not think so, I think it began much earlier with the changes that were taking place in the world. And at that time I remember there was no Pakistan bashing from India's side. When I became Prime Minister again in October, 1993, I went to the Commonwealth Conference and I met Mr Dixit, the Foreign Secretary and I said Mr Dixit, we must do something about reducing the tension between our two countries. And we agreed to start Foreign Secretary talks which were scheduled for 1st week of January. Lo and behold, as soon as we had decided to have talks, the Hazratbal siege took place and people criticised our Government for showing weakness in agreeing to talks. They said you see, India has mis-interpreted this gesture of Pakistan. Well, we tried to make a go of the talks. But when Mr Dixit came here the Indian side was simply not prepared to talk about Kashmir. We did not give up. We decided to exchange no-papers. We rejected their six non-papers.

But, we said alright, let us sitdown and discuss all the rejected papers to which India did not agree.

When the SAARC Summit was taking place, we did not sabotage it. The past SAARC was unable to meet when one of the member states played difficult. We could have done that SAARC was being held in New Delhi, we did not seek to embarrass New Delhi, our President went to New Delhi. But, lo and behold as seen as our President returned, the terrible Charar-i-Sharif incident took place. So, somehow the message that Pakistanis are getting from India that India is not prepared to sit down and have serious negotiations.

Q: Prime Minister, you have raised a lot of issues that I would like to try and take them up one by one. But, at the core of Indo- Pakistan relations is the Kashmir problem. I am not talking about the disputed claims of territory on either side, I am talking about India considers your Government's support and arming of Kashmiri militants, and, therefore, through them support for terrorism?

A: We do not arm or train or allow the arming or training of any Kahmiris on our soil.

Q: Former Army Chief, Aslam Beg said so in an interview to Selig Harrison, the American scholar?

A: I have not seen General Beg's article and I doubt that a former Chief of Army would make such an irresponsible statement.

Q: Almost every Western journalist who operates from this part of the world believes that the Pakistani Government is arming and supporting militants and through them supporting their activities, often terrorist activities.

A: You see, we believe that the Kashmiris themselves want the implementation of the UN Resolution. Therefore, when the Kashmiris themselves believe in something, when there is such a tremendous political support, then what is the need for Pakistan to go and train people and to arm people. We would not do that. But we would certainly give our full political support. I tell you that if India believes that this is happening, why do no we agree to the enhancement of the UN peacekeeping forces on the Line of Control between our two countries who can examine and look at these issues. We are not raining, we are not sending. And when we are not training and we are sending, we are prepared to have observers on the Line of Control to testify to the world. But, India is not agreeing to that. Now we feel that India is trying to divert attention from the genuine demands of the Kashmiri people, internationally recognised by blaming Pakistan without cause.

Q: Okay, let me give you an example of what the Indian Government considers Pakistani complicity in terrorism in Kashmir, Mast Gul, who the Indian government believes is responsible for the blowing of the Charar-i-Sharif shrine, has only a week ago been given access to Pakistan Television to publicly accuse and threaten India. Now if you are not associated with terrorism, then why are such people given such a facilities in our country?

A: First I would like to say that Mast Gul had nothing to do with the burning of Charar-Sharif, it was burnt down by the same man who attacked the Golden Temple. He did it before in East Punjab and he did it again in Kashmir.

Q: How do you know this?

A: Because he was the Brigadier in charge and now he is the General in charge.

Q: You are talking of an Indian army officer?

A: Yes, yes, I cannot remember his name unfortunately, but my office can give it to you later. He was the Brigadier who led the assault on the Golden Temple.

Q: You are saving Prime Minister that the Indian army itself burnt down the shrine?

A: Yes, because there were people they wanted who were holed up there and they wanted to flush them out and that is why they went and committed the sacrilegious act. And it was not the first time.

Q: Alright Prime Minister let me put another concern to you, at the moment, there are some five European and American tourists held hostage by Kashmiri militants. Now your government has denied any connection with the group Al-Faran that is responsible for their kidnap. But, an ally of yours and a member of Pakistan Senate, Maulana Fazlur Rehman has publicly said that he has been approached by the British and American envoys as well as by Al-Faran members to intercede. Does not that suggested that he has got connection with these terrorists?

A: He has not connection with Al-Faran. I put it to you, who are these Al-Faran. Who are these Al-Faran, and this kidnapping of the British hostages, has it helped the Kashmiris or has it really helped the Indian Government in its propaganda against the Kashmiri uprising. People in Pakistan believes that this Al-Faran group is a creation of the Indian intelligence and that this atrocious act of kidnapping British hostages was masterminded by them to discredit the Kashmiri movement.

Q: But why did the British, American envoys ask him to intercede?

A: And the Al-Faran group, somebody had obviously given them and we think it was Indian intelligence certain numbers because here in the middle of the Valley where you do not have telephone directory of numbers in Pakistan, this man can pick up a phone and he can ring up the British Embassy and he says please talk to Maulana Fazlur Rehman. And then he can ring up Maulana Fazlur Rehman and say that you know, if you intercede, not if you intercede, that if you can talk to the British or something like that. And we asked Maulana Fazlur Rehman and he said I do not know them. I have never heard of them, they called me up, the British came and I considered it my duty not to just close the doors because if I did and somebody was killed, the repercussion would be far worse. And so therefore, when they reached out to him keeping in mind the safety and the sanctity of the hostages and not wanting any retaliation against the hostages, he did not shut the door. But, he and the Pakistanis were very surprised that this non-known Al-Faran group suddenly emerges, kidnaps British hostages which discredit the Kashmir movement, plays into the hands of the Indian Government and in the Valley have the telephone numbers very conveniently of the British Embassy in Islamabad and Maulana Fazlur Rehman in Dera Ismail Khan.

Q: Okay Prime Minister, Kashmir is only one element of Indo- Pakistan relations. The Indian Government believes that it was repeatedly offered talks to your government without pre-conditions and you have repeatedly turned them down, why?

A: We have never never turned down talks, never. Just recently I saw a statement of Prime Minister Rao in which he said that there is no point in talking to Pakistan. I do not know whether it is that Mr Rao is a prepartition leader, I do not know whether he finds it difficult, what is the reason because we have been very keen to see talks between India and Pakistan.

Q: Let me give you a specific example of what the Indian Government believes is your intransigence, your hesitation to actually take relations further. Both Pakistan and India are members of the Word Trade Organisations. And as members, it is incumbent upon them to give each other most favoured nation status. India has accorded the status to Pakistan. Your government has not reciprocated, why?

A: May be it is some bureaucratic inertia, but Pakistan is a responsible international player, we keep all our international commitments. And if we are members of the WTO and this is a commitment, I see no reason why Pakistan would not live up to its commitment irrespective of the dispute that we have with India. You have just sprung this on me. As I said to you that we keep all our international commitments. And if this is a commitment that Pakistan has made to the WTO, if there is any delay in it, would a bureaucratic delay, it would not be a political delay.

Q: So, the Indian Government can look forward to a reciprocation of MFN status very soon?

A: If this is a commitment that Pakistan has made at the WTO, Pakistan keeps all its commitments. I wish India would keep the commitments it made. Why cannot India say that alright, we are prepared to sit for talks with Pakistan. There will be two agendas. One agenda will be Indo-Pak dispute. And one agenda will be the Kashmir dispute. Why cannot they sit down and say it to us. We could start talking tomorrow.

Q: If they agree to that, will you start talking tomorrow?

A: Yes, we have proposed it to them. We have said that we have given you our two non-papers. Our two-non papers, one is on Indo- Pak and one is on the Kashmir dispute. And if they are prepared to talks on our two non-papers which they rejected and we rejected their six non-papers, we are prepared to have talks with them on all the rejected non-papers tomorrow.

Q: On 5th of August, Mr. Narasimha Rao on his return from Malaysia said to journalists that he would be happy to talk top Pakistan without pre-conditions. Can you take that offer up?

A: Why does he say without pre-conditions? This is what they said in December 1993 that we will talk about Kashmir too, but they never talked. So, when they say they are implying that they are prepared to talk about Kashmir. If they are implying that they are prepared to talk about Kashmir, then why not state in an overt, clear, clean- cut manner.

Q: Why do not you call their bluff and try it, what do you have to lose?

A: No, because the last time when we had talks, we ended up with the Hazratbal siege and the government was highly embarrassed and we do not want to walk again into an embarrassing situation. Our fingers have been burnt once and it is very difficult for us to burn our fingers again. But what we are saying is that if the Indian Government is prepared to talk about any subject including Kashmir, why cannot it say that okay, one of the agenda items will be Kashmir dispute. We can have talks tomorrow if they can say that.

Q: Ms Bhutto, to me you should very serious about wanting to take Indo-Pak relations further. And yet I remember, at the SAARC Summit, which was twice postponed, ostensibly to accommodate you, you still failed to turn up. To many Indians that looked like a smile?

A: That is not true. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan cannot be out at the same time. The SAARC Summit was postponed once so that the president could attend the SAARC Summit. If we did not want the SAARC Summit to take place, we would have just said we are not turning up and it would have been delayed.

Q: Would not it have been more (good) (interesting) to turn up yourself personally, we were the only head of government onto there?

A: The President was there, the President has been elected by the members of the governing party in addition to other allies.

Q: But the President is not Benazir Bhutto and everyone's hopes lie in Benazir Bhutto?

A: No, I would think that the President himself is very seasoned politician, he is a former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, he is a former Finance Minister, he is a former Minister of Water and Power and we thought it would be appropriate for the President to represent us. As I mentioned to you, SAARC summits had not been held because countries have at times refused to attend. We did not do that. We said please change the dates from the Prime Minister's visit to America and the President will come and attend. And the President did not and attend.

Q: As you put it, so much of the problem between India and Pakistan is the misperception on either side, let me give you another example of misperceptions that you can allay. Every time Pakistan acquires arms. Whether it is M-11s from China, whether it is the recent package being talked about that may come form America the Indians believe is going to be used against them. Can you tonight reassure the Indian people and the Indian Government that any new arms that Pakistan may acquire will not be used across the border against India?

A: Now this is another sore point with us. Number one, we do not have M-11 missiles. Why does India keep on propagating when we do not have missiles. (Interviewer: many American Senators think you have). But that is because of all this Indian Information. When we do not have missiles which are outside MBCT, why does India repeatedly make this accusation against Pakistan and vitiate the atmosphere. Number two, in June, 1989, the US and Pakistan negotiated for 60 F-16s and for 4.6 billion dollar package of assistance military and economic to Pakistan. Rajiv Gandhi did not say that it upset the imbalance of power here, he did not say that. Now we are not getting the F-16s, we are not getting the 4.6 billion package, we are just getting what we paid for. Our money or our equipment, that is all, we not getting the 4.6 billion, we are not getting the 60 F-16s. For Rajiv Gandhi, that did not disturb the balance of power in the Subcontinent because he wanted to solve the issues. But with Mr. Narasimha Rao, we cannot understand why he is going to town, when we are not getting 4.6 billion. We are not getting 60 F-16s, why does he do this?

Q: May I make a suggestion, why do not you say today that whatever you get will not be used against India and you reassure people right the way across the border, why cannot you just say that?

A: Because, I see no reason why if I had to get something for my defence. I have to ground reassure big brother across the border. And this is a problem. India must recognise that Pakistan is an equal partner. This attitude by India that somehow or the other it is big brother, I think that is what bothers Pakistanis because Pakistanis begin to think that oh, has India really accepted our independence. We had Bangladesh and now India is behaving in this way. So, therefore, I would say it is very important for India not to make a hullabaloo when Pakistan does something which is within its won defence, which is within its won security. And it is also very important that Mr. Narasimha Rao at least show the courtesy of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. If Rajiv Gandhi could accept more for Pakistan without making a fuss, why is Mr. Rao making a fuss with less.

Q: Ms. Bhutto you are very good at playing one Indian Prime Minister against another Indian Prime Minister, that is a politician in you, is not it?

A: I would not like to play one Indian Prime Minister against another, but as a Pakistani Prime Minister who dealt with two Indian Prime Ministers, I would like to ask a simple question what why is it that there is such a sea-change in the attitude from one Indian Prime Minister to another. I think some of the deadlock is due to the seachange.

Q: Let me ask you one simple question to which I think people in your country as much as India want an answer. To many it looks as if India and Pakistan have become obsessed with each other to their mutual detriment. Can you see these countries breaking of this regressive syndrome?

A: Well, there are hawks on both sides, but there are also doves depends on the objective situation and the threat perception.

Q: You are not confused, are you?

A: No, I am not confused. But, I would like to see India and Pakistan sit down seriously at a negotiating table, define the agenda and move on the basis of that agenda. I think that there was a lot that India and Pakistan were able to do when I was Prime Minister and they had Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as the Prime Minister. And I do believe that if Mr. Rao could somehow rise above partisan considerations or perhaps pre-partition, I do not know now to say it (Interviewer: problems) yes, I think that somehow if he could rise above that. Why cannot he say that India recognised at the UN that this is a disputed territory and does not lesson India, it adds to India, if India says that yes, well, we make this commitment, we are prepared to talk about it.

Q: So, if India comes half way, will you meet them fifty percent of the way?

A: Of course.

Q: Do you think this will happen?

A: You must ask Mr. Rao.

Q: But you are saying that you are willing to take a step? Will you take the first step?

A: Yes, I am prepared to say right now that if India is prepared to have a two-point agenda, the Kashmir dispute and Indo-Pak problems we are prepared to sit down and talk with them. But we are not prepared to sit down and say no pre-conditions because that is a hazy word which means will be cloud.

Q: You want clarity?

A: Yes.

Q: Will you then take the first step and propose this formally to the Indian Government?

A: That my Foreign Office always tells me what to do and what not to do. I do not do it through television cameras although you make it sounds for tempting.

Q: You might consider doing it through the Foreign Office.

A: The Foreign Office would have to advise the government on what to do or what not to do.

Q: Are you a prisoner of the Foreign Office or would you dictate to the Foreign Office?

A: No, no, I would like to ask you, why cannot India, why cannot Mr. Rao take that step?

Q: You think it would be better for him to take the first step?

A: We have already proposed. As far as I recall, my Foreign Office has already proposed that we should have this two-point agenda; one, the Kashmir dispute and one, Indo-Pak problem.

Q: So, you are waiting for the first step from him?

A: So, we are waiting for a reply from him, a positive reply form him.

Q: Ms. Bhutto, on that note, thank you very much for talking to Eyewitness.

A: Thank you very much.

Sri Lanka

President Calls For Accelerating Economic Growth

BK3009115895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has said that the government is determined to see that no obstacle is placed in the way of the private sector and both foreign and domestic policies will be fully enlisted in support of Sri Lanka becoming the dynamic group [as heard] all over the South Asian region. The president was speaking at the convocation of the Bandaranaike Center for International Studies at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] yesterday.

The president said that investment level should be raised from the current 25 percent of the Gross Domestic Product to the 30-35 range characteristic of East Asia. This is the only way in which economic growth can be accelerated from the current average level of around 5.5 percent to reach 8 percent per annum and move from today's 14 percent unemployment to full employment by 2,000. [words indistinct] if the war in the northeast were to end, the task will be easier.

She pointed out that regional economic cooperation was vital to Sri Lanka's foreign policy strategy if the country is to pursue rapid economic growth. The region should move as fast as possible toward the elimination of all trade barriers to the free flow of goods and services in South Asia.

Further on President's Remarks

BK0210152895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 30 Sep 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The government is determined to see that no obstacle is placed in the way of the private sector and both foreign and domestic policies will be fully enlisted in support of Sri Lanka becoming the dynamic growth pole of the South Asian region, President Chandrika Kumaratunga said yesterday.

The President was speaking at the convocation of the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall], Colombo.

"Our commitment to rational and responsible domestic economic and financial policies modelled on the tradition of economic self- reliance is resolute. The unexpected war effort this year has resulted in a set back to achieving our overall investment target while maintaining macroeconomic stability. We are committed to taking the necessary corrective actions in the near future," she said.

The president said investment levels should be raised from the current 25% of the Gross Domestic Product to the 30%-35% range characteristic of East Asia. This is the only way in which economic growth can be accelerated from current average levels of around 5.5% to reach 8% per annum and move from today's 14% unemployment to full employment by 2000. "If the war in the North East were to end, the task of moving to East Asian investment levels will be easier".

Regional economic cooperation is vital to Sri Lanka's foreign policy strategy if we are to pursue rapid economic growth, she said, adding that the region should move "as fast as possible" towards the elimination of all trade barriers to the free flow of goods and services in South Asia.

"This is the eventual aim of SAPTA, the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement. The recent SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit took decisive steps to ratify it by the end of this year. We must then move to SAFTA, the South Asian Free Trade Area".

"It is in this context that my government attaches the greatest importance to strengthening our relations with neighbours," the President said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Attends UN General Assembly

BK0210125795 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 2 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Ministers participating in the current UN General Assembly sessions in New York have expressed broad support for the peace initiatives of the Sri Lankan government.

A Foreign Ministry news release said Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has briefed his colleagues on the current situation in Sri Lanka and the efforts of the government to pursue a peaceful, negotiated settlement of ethnic and other issues facing the North. The minister also told them about the devolution package and the national debate on that issue.

"He has also explained the essential military measures taken by the government to protect all citizens," the release said, adding that the minister received broad support for the peace initiatives of the government.

He has already met the foreign ministers of Algeria, Colombia, China, Germany, Iran, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom and also the US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs in the absence of the Secretary of State.

The minister discussed bilateral issues and practical steps for expansion of relations with these countries, with particular emphasis on trade and investment links. Issues relating to the reorganisation of the United Nations were also discussed.

He is due to meet the foreign ministers of Australia, India, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Kuwait and Jamaica next week.

The forthcoming 11th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was also discussed by the minister with his counterparts from NAM countries, especially with the foreign minister of Colombia which will host the Summit.

He addressed the Group of 77 forum on Friday [29 September].

Meanwhile, the European Union in a memorandum to the General Assembly has strongly condemned the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] violation of the ceasefire agreement with the Sri Lankan government and has called upon the LTTE to refrain from escalating hostilities.

Reportage on Recent Government-LTTE Rebel Fighting

Government Launches 'Thunder Strike'

BK0310081195 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 3 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three army brigades broke out from the Forward Defended Locality (FDLs) of the Palaly military enclave, in Northern Jaffna peninsula, at first light of dawn on Sunday [1 October] and captured the Achchuveli area comprising 21 square kilometres, the Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said on Monday.

"LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] transmissions monitored by the security forces and estimates by ground troops revealed that 51 Tigers have been killed and 200 wounded," it said.

Nineteen soldiers have been killed in the operation code-named Thunder Strike, which is continuing. Seven officers and 68 soldiers have been wounded so far in day one of the operation.

Troops have recovered 19 bodies of Tamil rebels.

The Operational headquarters said the troops supported by armour and artillery were able to overcome enemy resistance, causing heavy casualties to the enemy, while advancing towards Achchuveli located south of Palaly.

"Initially troops came under enemy resistance and subsequently the rebels withdrew further to the south," it said, adding that LTTE cadres engaged the advancing columns with mortar fire. Soldiers supported by armour and artillery were able to overcome enemy resistance causing heavy casualties to the enemy, the report said.

"Terrorists continued to probe and interfere with the troops during the night with mortars and small arms fire" said the report.

It said the troops had captured the areas of Achchuveli, Thoppu, Navakkeri, Vasavilan, Puthur, Paihameni, Avarankal, Iddaikadu and Vallai. Troops are consolidating their positions in the captured area.

In another incident, at least one Tiger was killed in a clash between troops and a group of LTTE cadres at Elephant Pass on Sunday morning. The soldiers engaged the Tigers with small arms fire, forcing them to withdraw. Later, they searched the area and recovered the body of the dead Tiger.

'Guerrillas' Launch Counter-Offensive

BK0310050795 Hong Kong AFP in English
0449 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 3 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas launched a major counter-offensive in northern Sri Lanka Tuesday [3 October], killing nine soldiers while losing an estimated 200 of their own cadres, the military said.

An estimated 1,000 men and women from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched the pre-dawn attack against infantry troops camped in an area captured from the rebels, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

"We are certain that we killed over 200 Tigers," Munasinghe told AFP. "We have recovered 105 of their bodies. We have also recovered a lot of automatic rifles and mortars brought by the terrorists."

He said the army had been expecting a counter-attack by the guerrillas following the launch on Sunday of the military's operation "Thunder Strike" inside the LTTE-dominated Jaffna peninsula.

Nineteen soldiers were killed in Thunder Strike, while the military, with deployed 7,500 infantry troops, claimed to have killed 51 LTTE guerrillas. The Tigers said six civilians were also killed.

Munasinghe said the LTTE's counter-offensive was launched by two local LTTE leaders known as Balraj and Swarnan.

"They tried to attack us at two points and took a very severe beating," Munasinghe said. "This is a major setback to the terrorists. They are finding it very difficult because we have moved into their area and are fighting them."

Meanwhile, the LTTE's clandestine radio was silent about the latest fighting, but said some 50,000 Tamil civilians have fled their homes in the face of the military offensive.

The Thunder Strike troops had captured a 21-square-kilometre (12- square-mile) area just outside the main Palaly military complex located within Jaffna where the Tigers maintain their de facto separate state.

The Tigers are leading a campaign for a homeland for minority Tamils concentrated in the northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict since 1972.

Spokesman Details Rebel Naval Attack

BK0310090695 Hong Kong AFP in English
0852 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 3 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan navy fought off an attempt by rebel suicide bombers to blow up a navy convoy, leaving at least 45 people dead, the military said Tuesday [3 October].

A flotilla of rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) boats attacked the convoy off the island nation's northeastern coast overnight, killing 15 army soldiers who were on a landing craft, a military spokesman said.

He said at least 30 rebels, including five suicide bombers from the group's Black Sea Tiger wing, were killed when fast attack craft escorting the convoy counter-attacked, sinking seven LTTE boats.

The navy also "engaged and completely destroyed" one explosives- laden boat that tried to ram the navy landing craft that was carrying troops from the northern war theatre to the northeastern Trincomalee port, the spokesman said.

The landing craft was "slightly damaged," when the Tiger vessel exploded, the spokesman said.

At least 40 soldiers and 14 sailors were wounded in the fighting, the spokesman said.

The rebels have carried out similar attacks on navy craft off the northeastern coast.

In July, the navy foiled a rebel bid to bomb its biggest ship berthed at a northern port, killing several LTTE suicide-bombers.

The LTTE is seeking to drive government forces from the northeast and to set up an independent nation in the region for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.